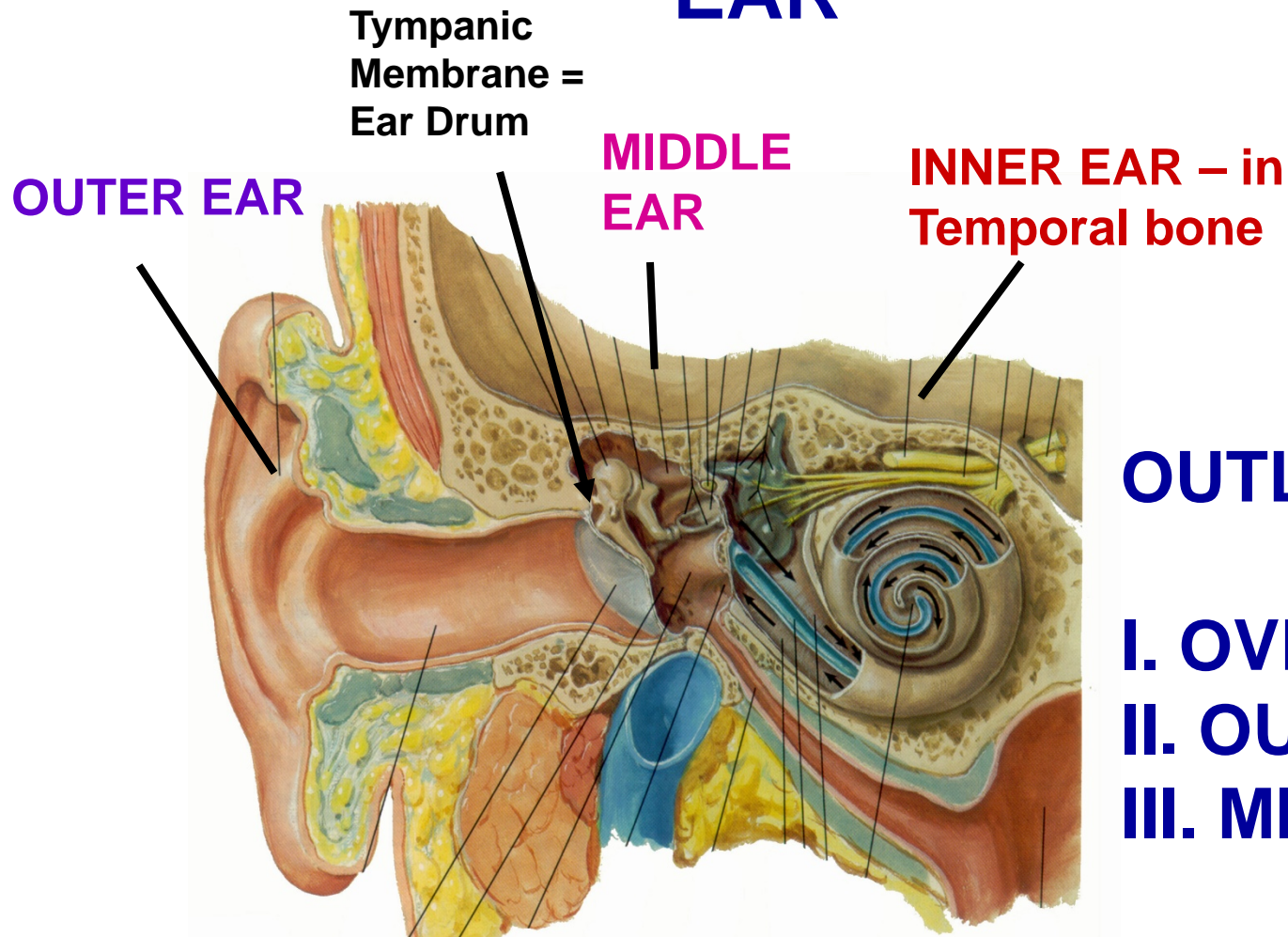


# EAR



## OUTLINE

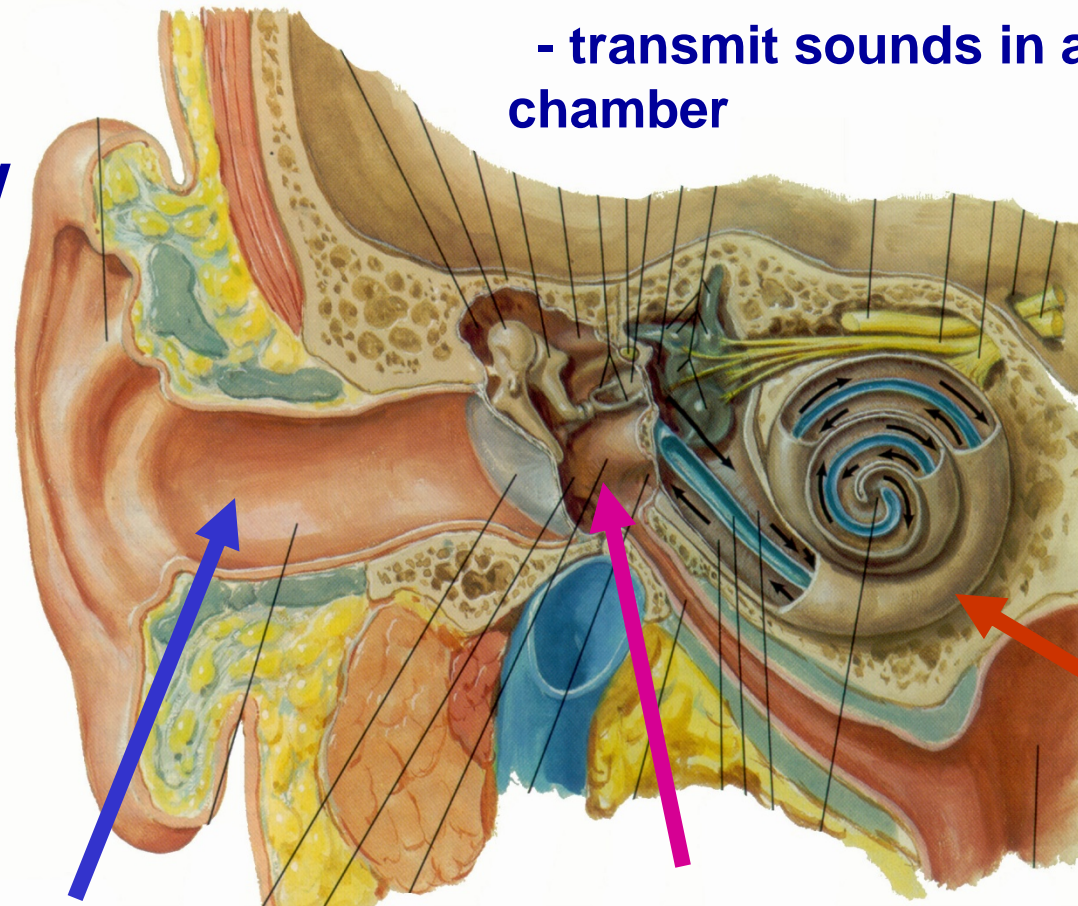
- I. OVERVIEW
- II. OUTER EAR
- III. MIDDLE EAR

Outer and middle ear transmit sound to inner ear.

Middle ear is dead end space filled with air and connected

to nasopharynx; Middle ear infections common (otitis media)

# I. EAR - overview



- transmit sounds in air to fluid filled chamber

## REGIONS

**A. Outer Ear**  
1) funnel shaped cartilage and skin  
2) directs sound (pressure waves in air) to tympanic membrane

**B. Middle Ear - air-filled chamber**  
1) bones link tympanic membrane to cochlea; amplify force/area  
2) muscles can dampen loud sounds

**C. Inner Ear- fluid-filled chamber inside BONE**  
1) cochlea- hearing;  
2) vestibular apparatus- gravity

## CONDUCT SOUND

(CONDUCTIVE HEARING LOSS)

## DETECT SOUND

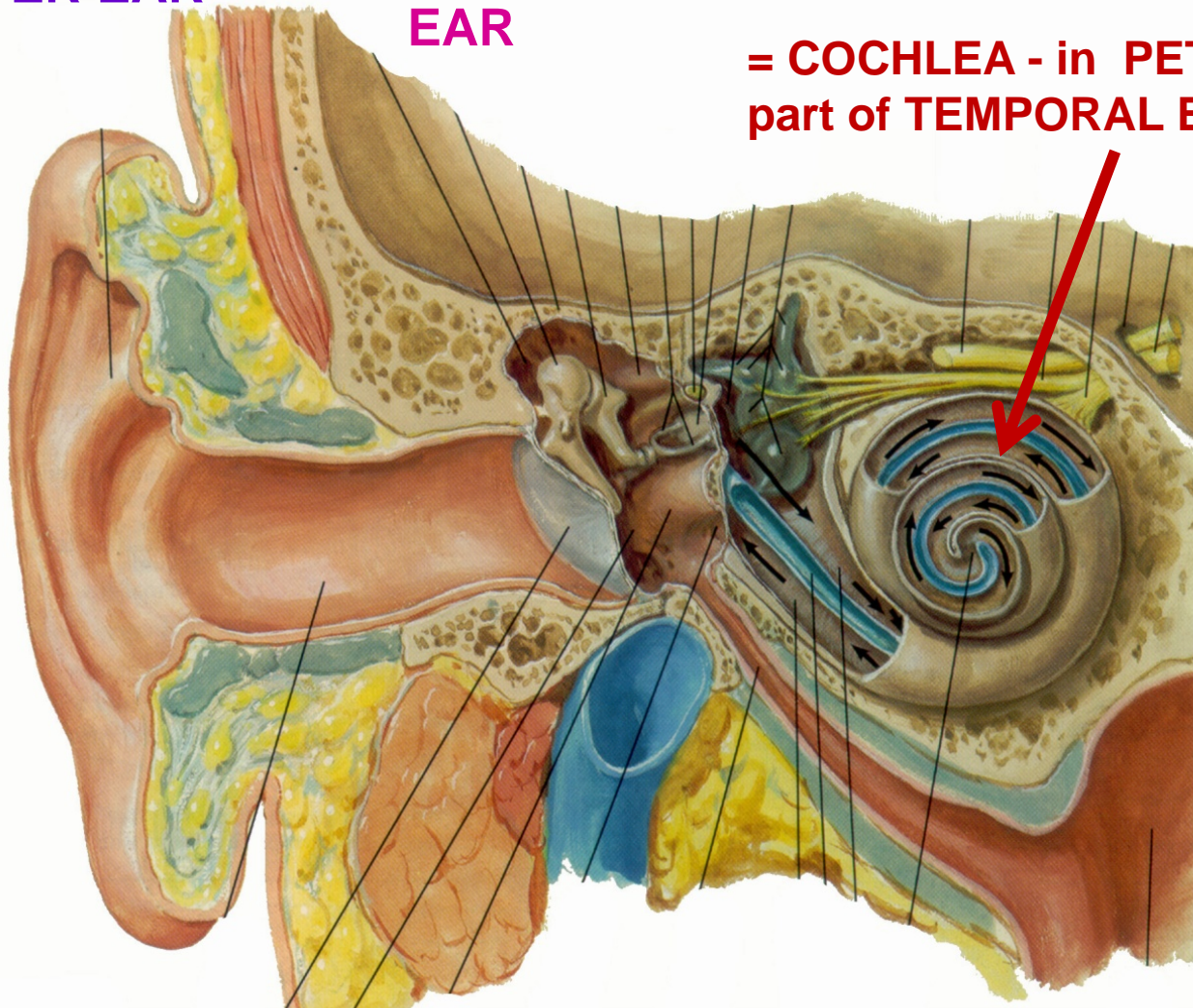
(= SENSORINEURAL PART)

**OUTER EAR**

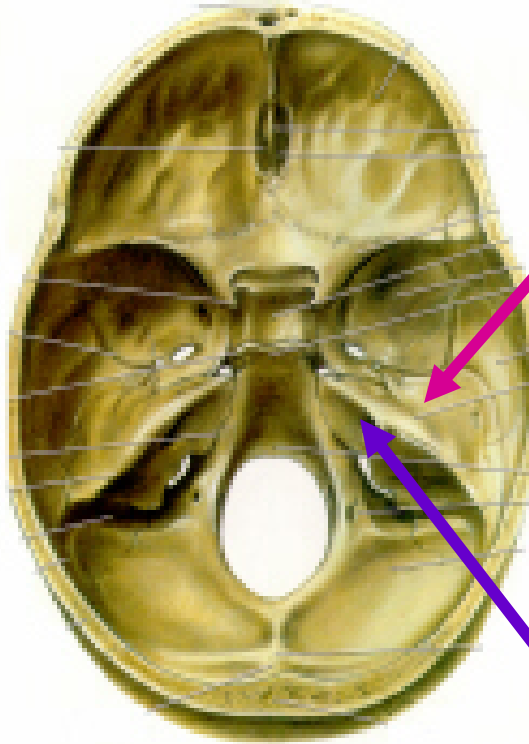
**MIDDLE  
EAR**

**INNER EAR**

= COCHLEA - in PETROUS  
part of TEMPORAL BONE

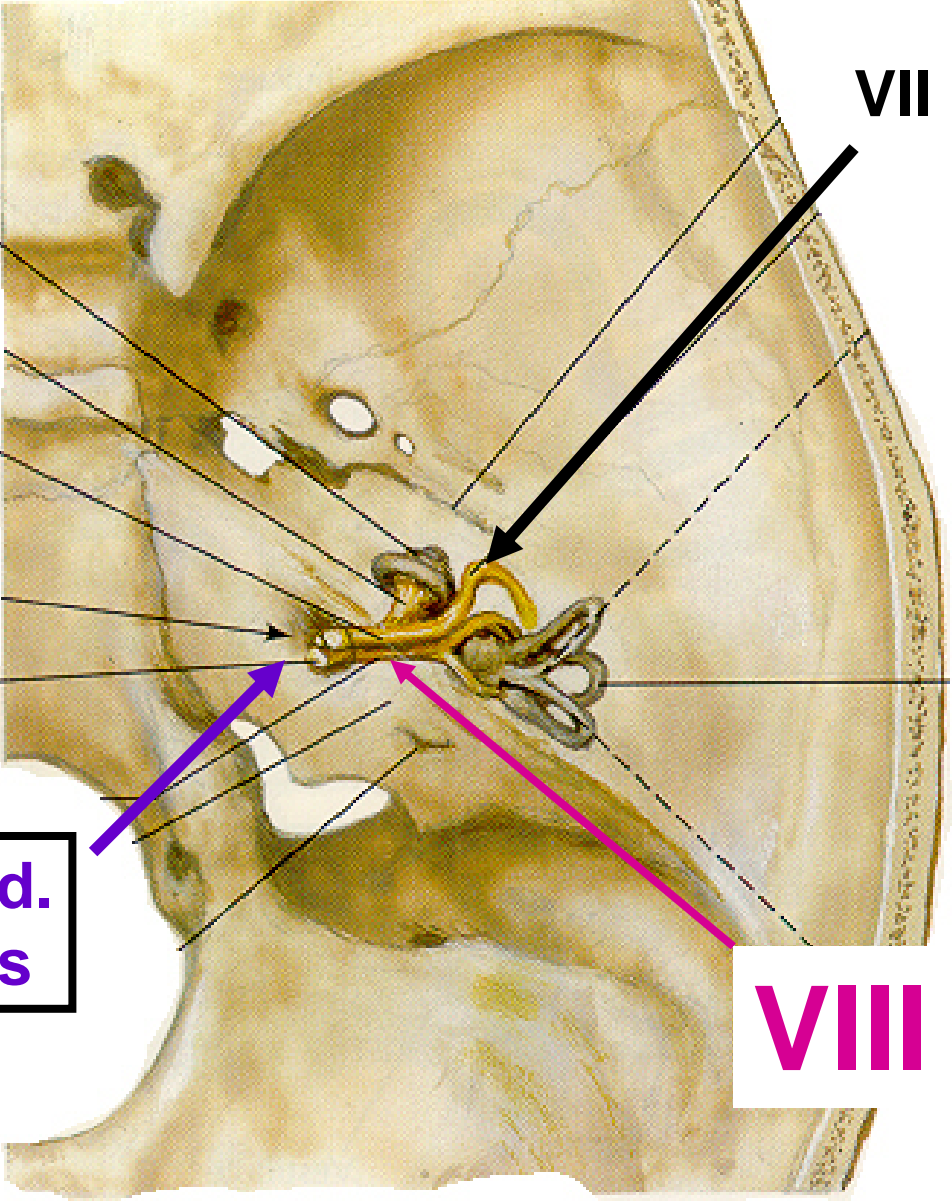


**ORIENT: LOCATION OF INNER EAR**



**Petrous part of temporal bone**

**Int. aud. meatus**



**VII**

**VIII**

## CLINICAL TEST: INNER EAR DETECTS TRANSMITTED VIBRATIONS

Weber test – tuning fork on calvarium directly causes bone to vibrate; conducted to cochlea by bone; perceived as sound by patient

Can use to test functioning of inner ear (Sensorineural hearing loss) independent of outer, middle ear (Conductive hearing loss)

**\*\***

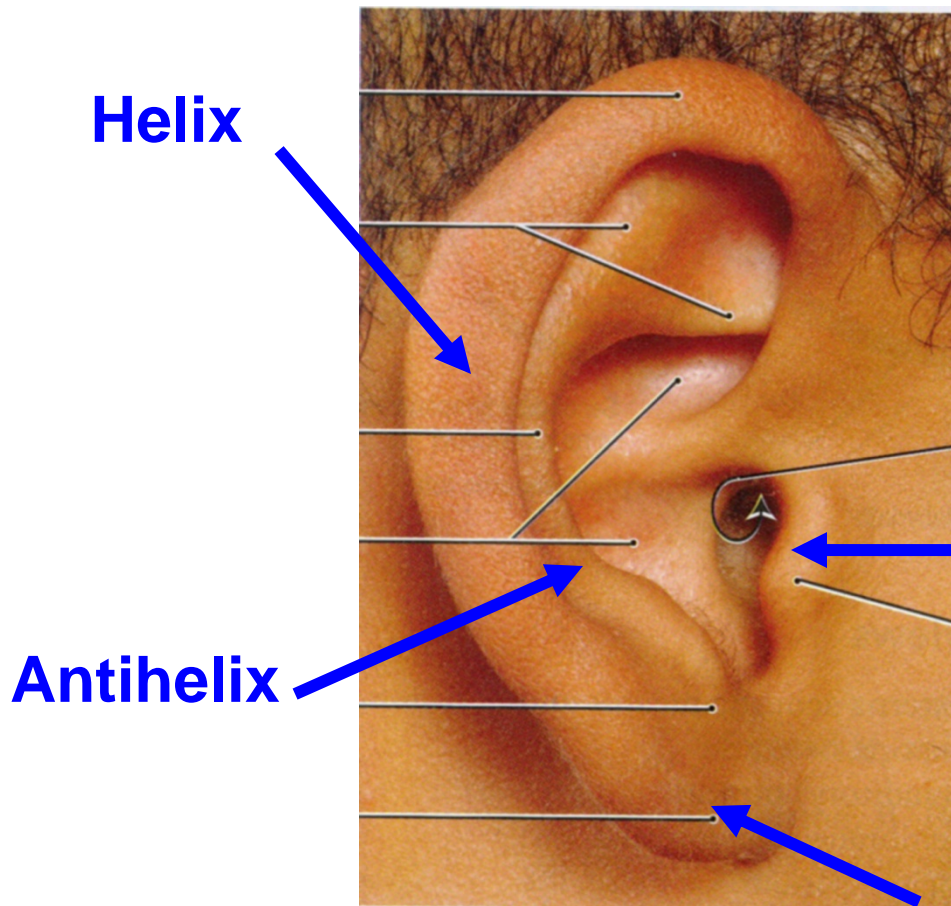
CONDUCTIVE HEARING LOSS - damage to middle ear (tympanic membrane, auditory ossicles (bones))

SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS - damage to inner ear (cochlea).

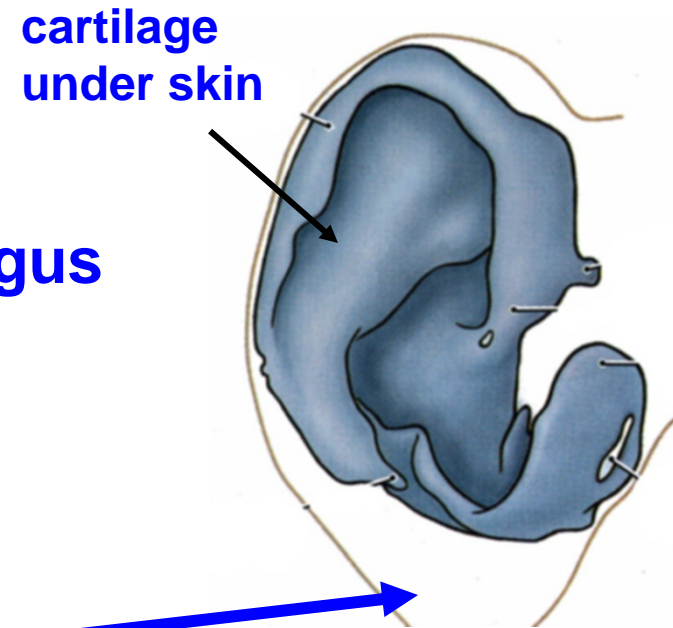


**FIGURE 11-18**  
Weber test. Place the base of the tuning fork on the midline of the skull.

## II. OUTER EAR - composed of two parts



A. AURICLE (pinna) -  
elastic cartilage and skin -  
Reflects sound waves

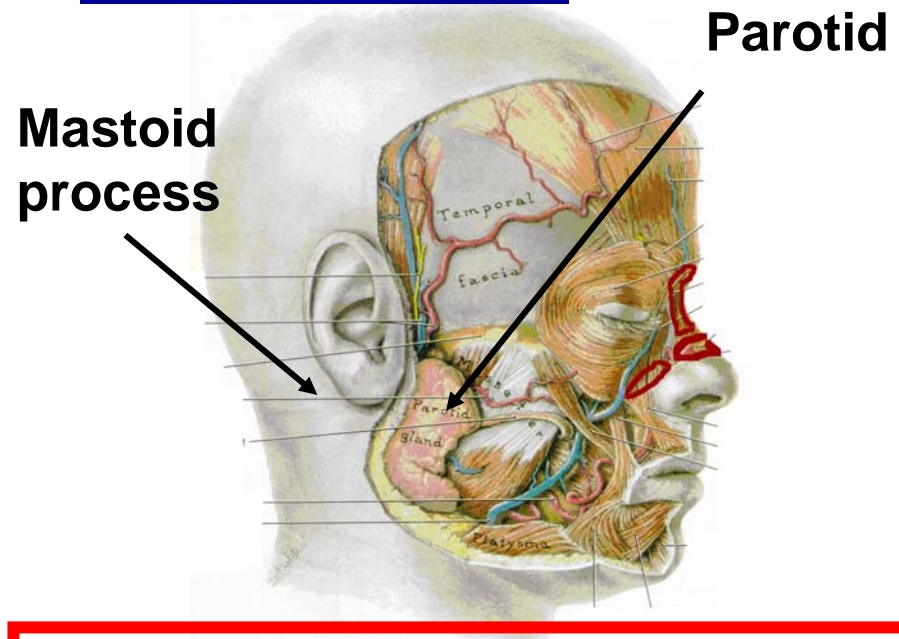
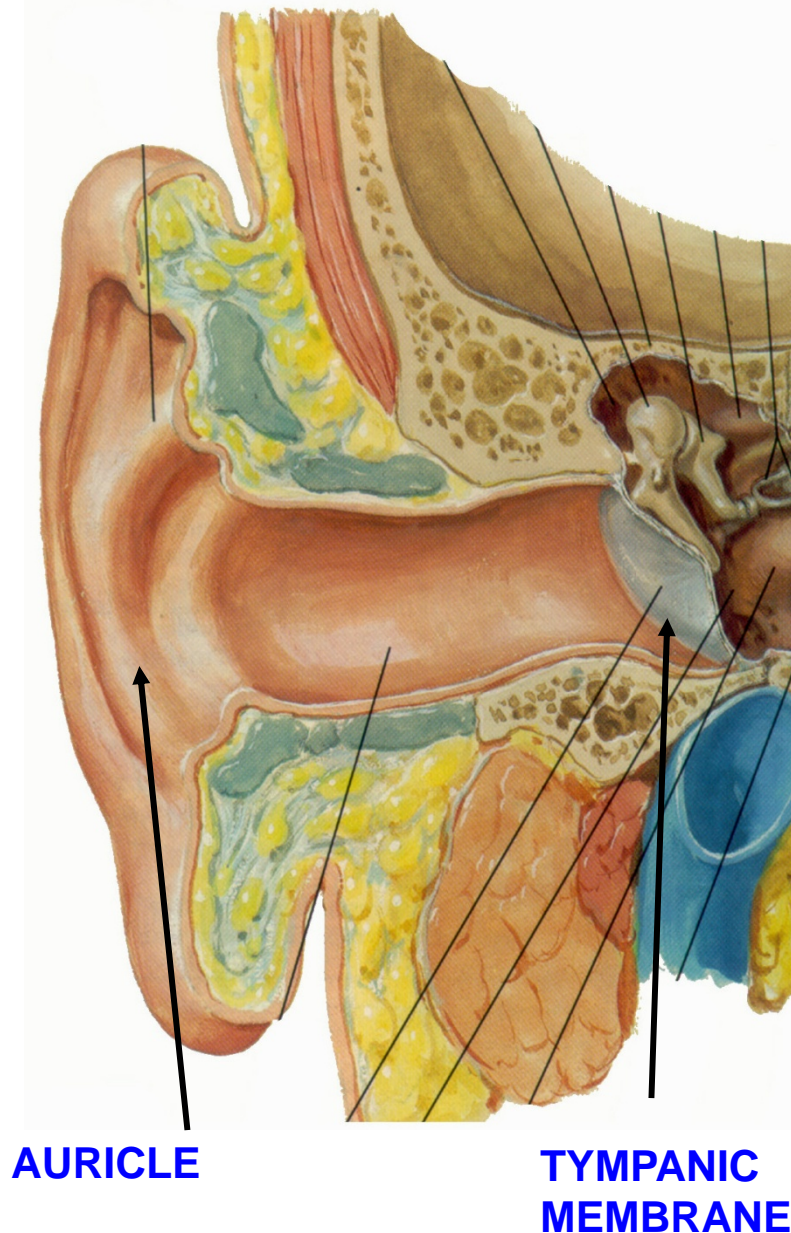


Lobule

Cartilage does not extend into lobule - Can safely pierce and suspend decorative metal objects from lobule

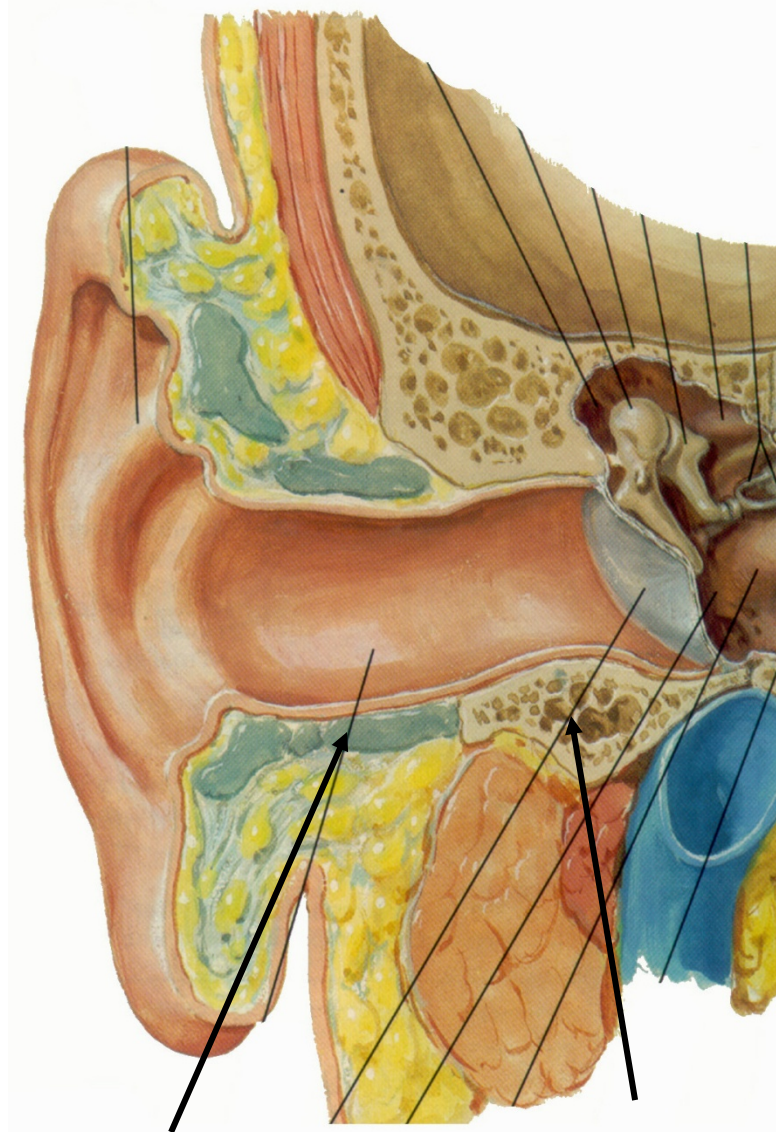
## EXTERNAL AUDITORY MEATUS - location

- Tube from auricle to the tympanic membrane; posterior to Parotid gland and TMJ; anterior to mastoid process



**Clinical** note - sensory innervation of Outer Ear from CN V, VII, IX and X; patient's with Bell's palsy can have sensation of ear ache. \*\*

# EXTERNAL AUDITORY MEATUS



OUTER 1/3  
CARTILAGE

INNER 2/3  
BONE

Outer 1/3 - Cartilage - contains hair, sebaceous and ceruminous glands (ear wax [insect repellent]); protects tymp. membrane,

Inner 2/3 - Bone covered by skin

Clinical note: ext. auditory meatus is **straight in children, curved anteriorly in adults**

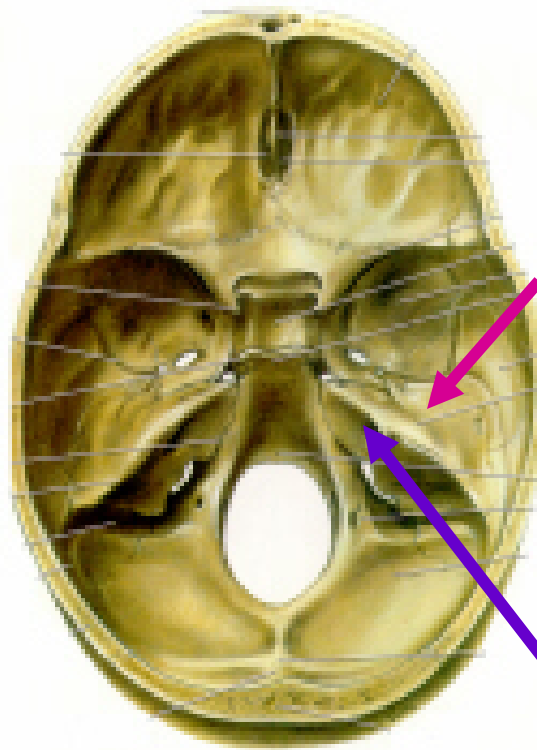
In Adult - pull up and back to insert otoscope





### III. MIDDLE EAR - hard to visualize

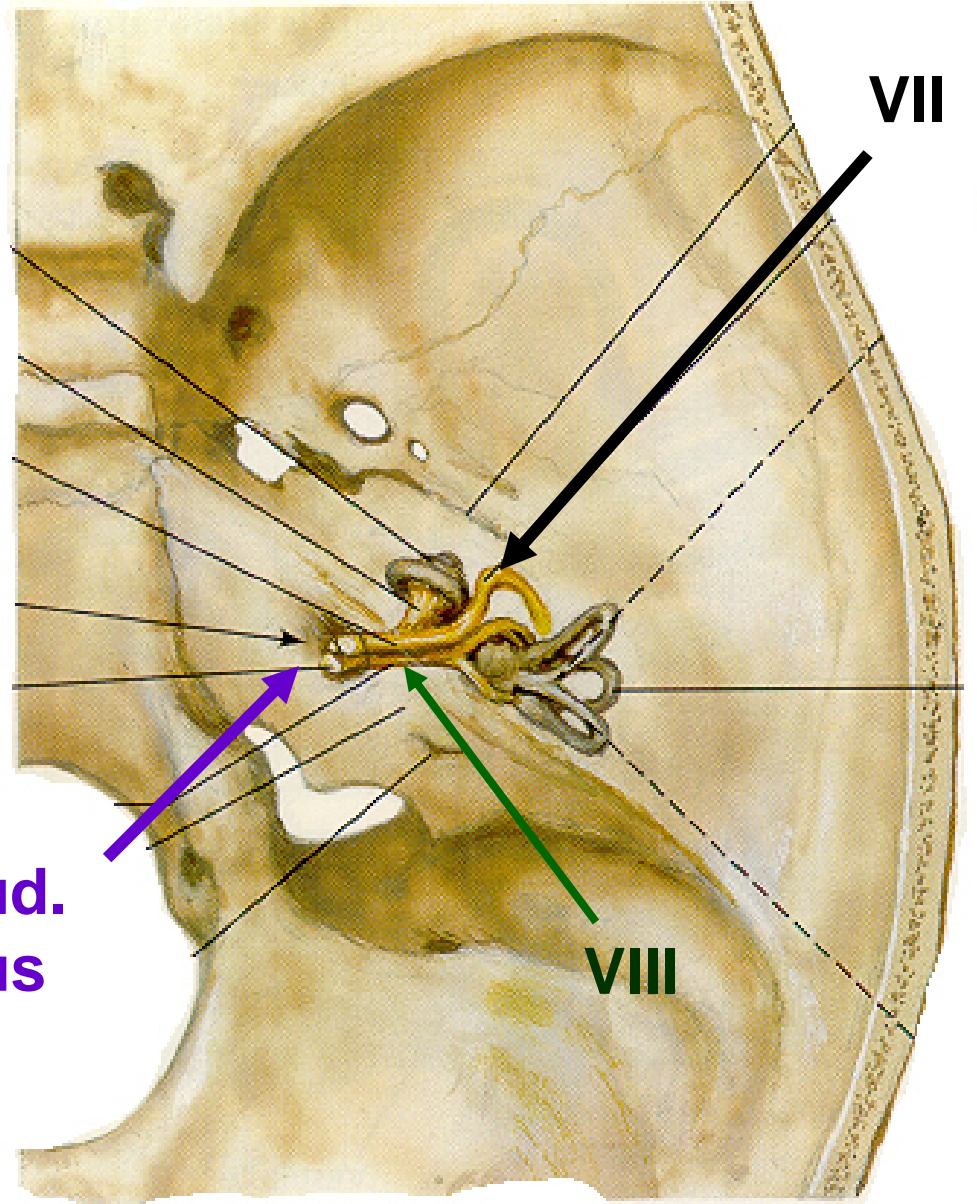
ORIENT: LOCATION OF INNER EAR



Petrous part of temporal bone

LOCATION OF MIDDLE EAR AND INNER EAR DIFFICULT TO DEMONSTRATE

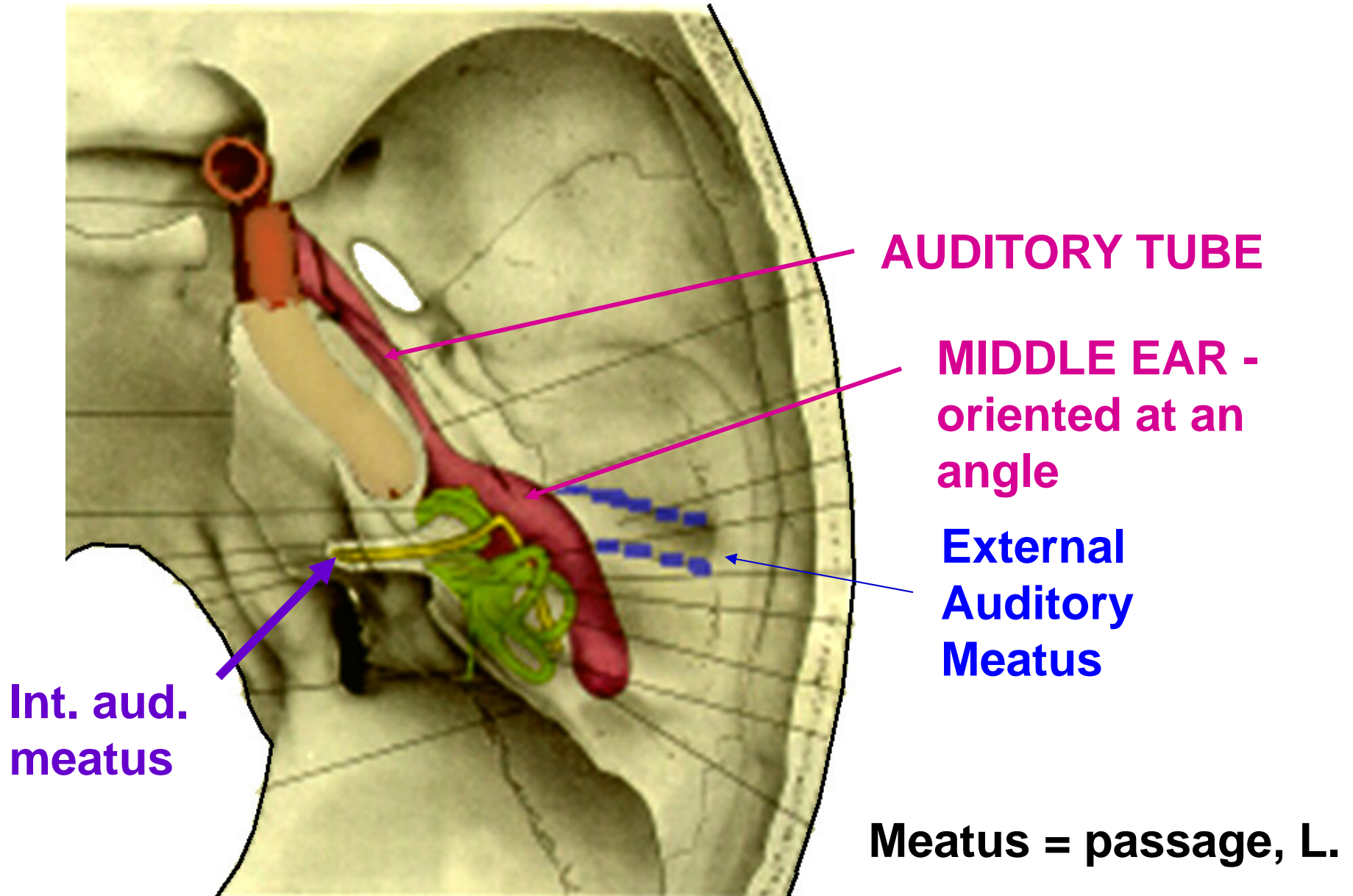
Int. aud. meatus



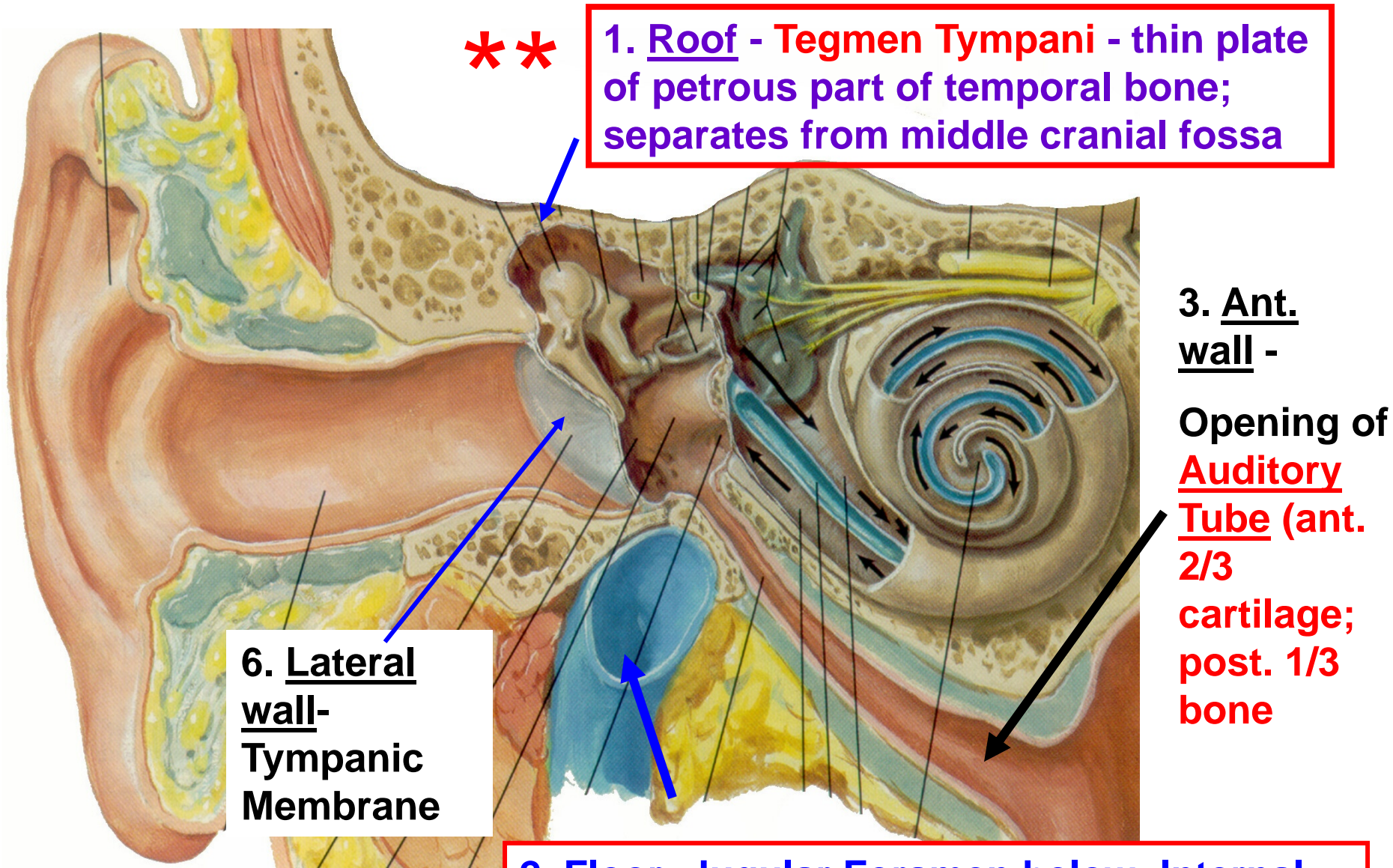
VII

VIII

## ORIENT: LOCATION OF MIDDLE EAR



### III. MIDDLE EAR - BOUNDARIES



\*\*\*

1. Roof - **Tegmen Tympani** - thin plate of petrous part of temporal bone; separates from middle cranial fossa

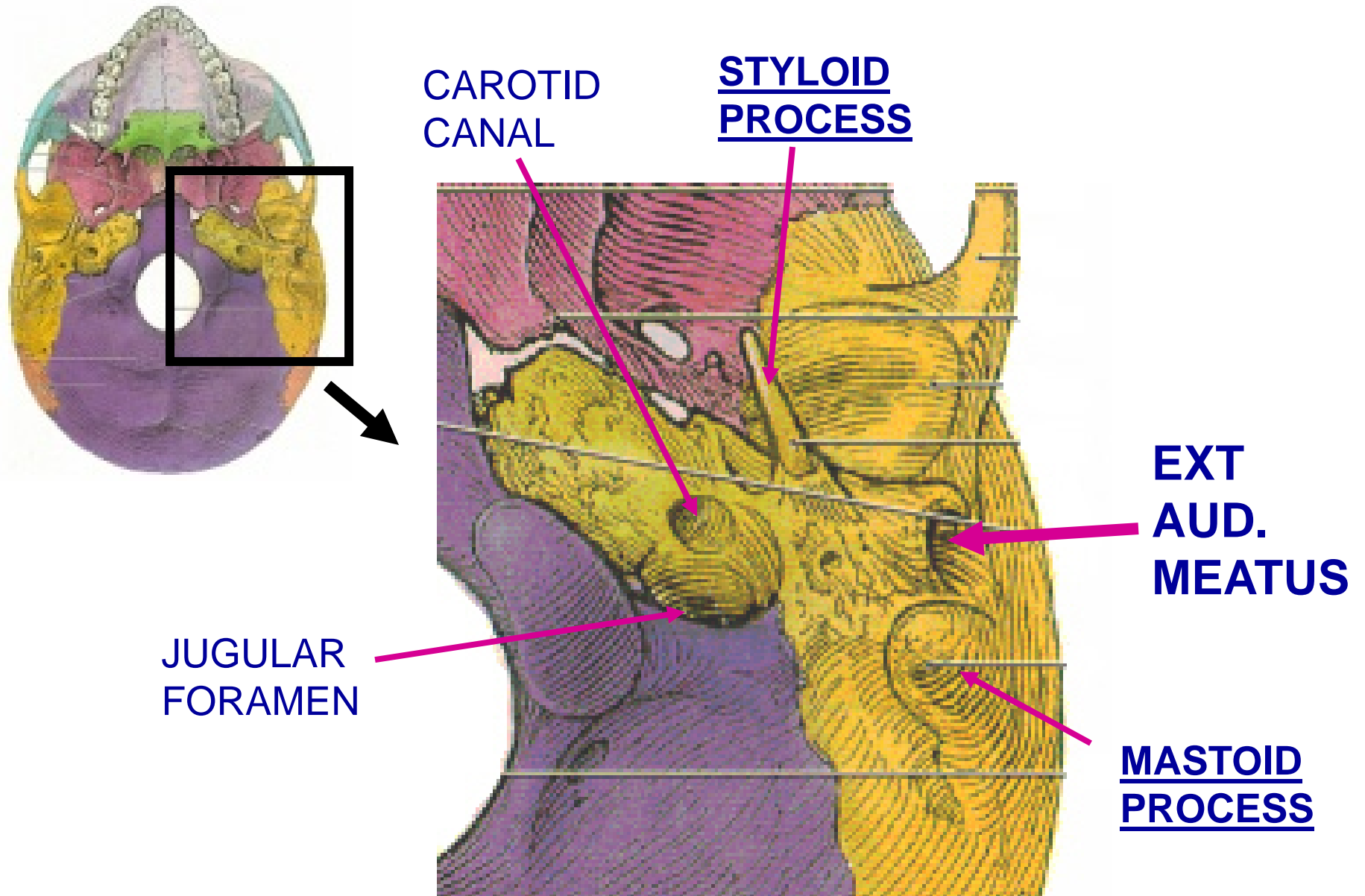
3. Ant. wall -  
Opening of **Auditory Tube** (ant. 2/3 cartilage; post. 1/3 bone)

6. Lateral wall-  
Tympanic Membrane

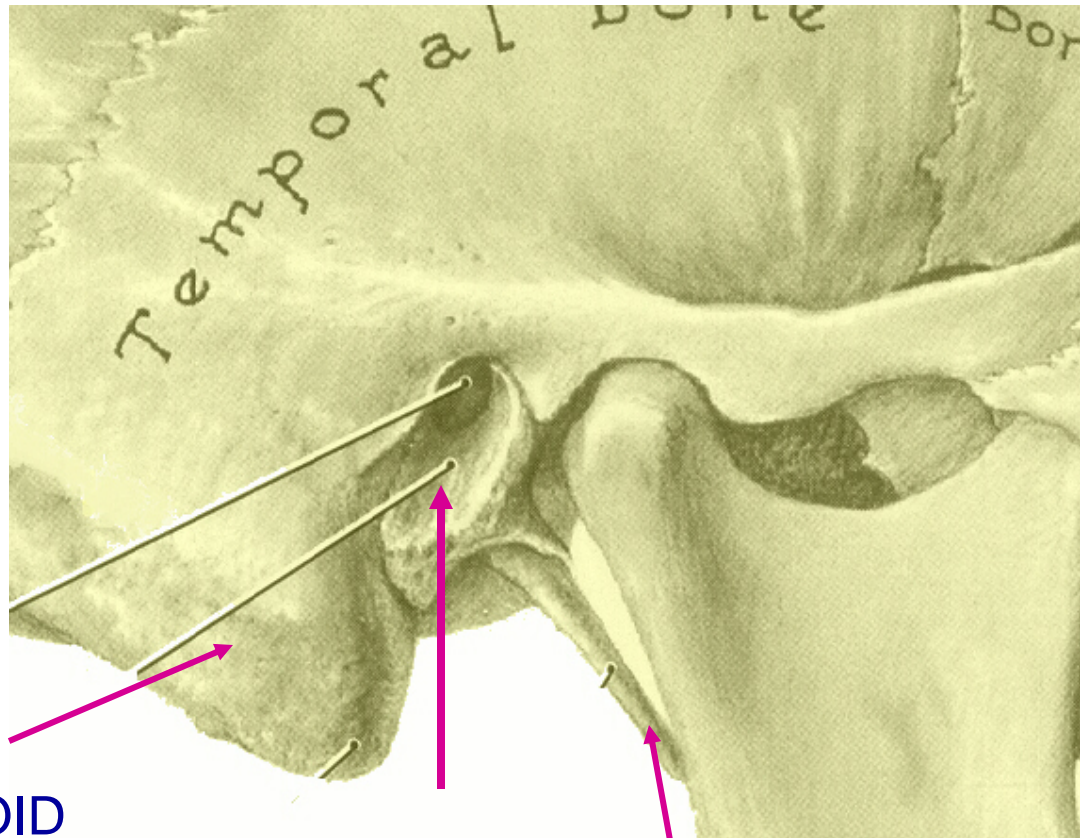
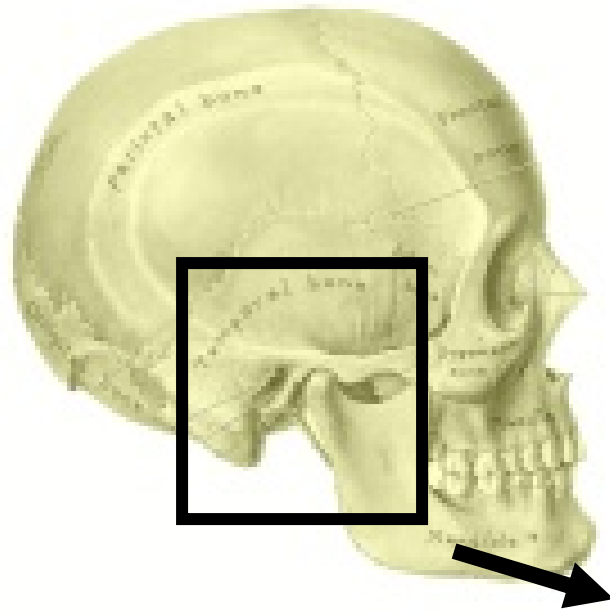
2. Floor- Jugular Foramen below- Internal Jugular vein can rupture to middle ear

Tegmen = L. roof

# ORIENT: LOCATION OF MIDDLE EAR ON SKULL



## ORIENT: LOCATION OF MIDDLE EAR ON SKULL

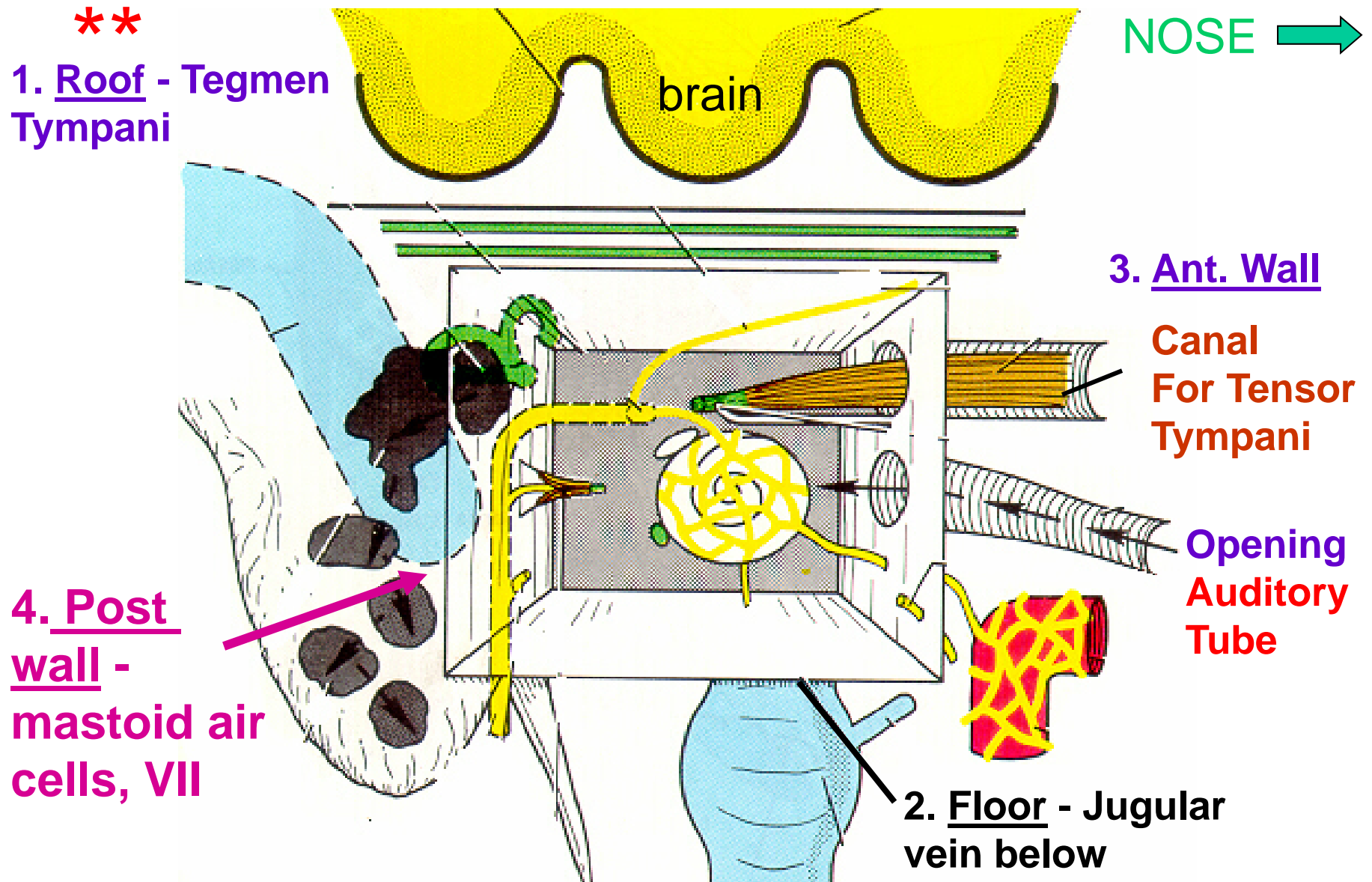


MASTOID  
PROCESS

EXT. AUD.  
MEATUS

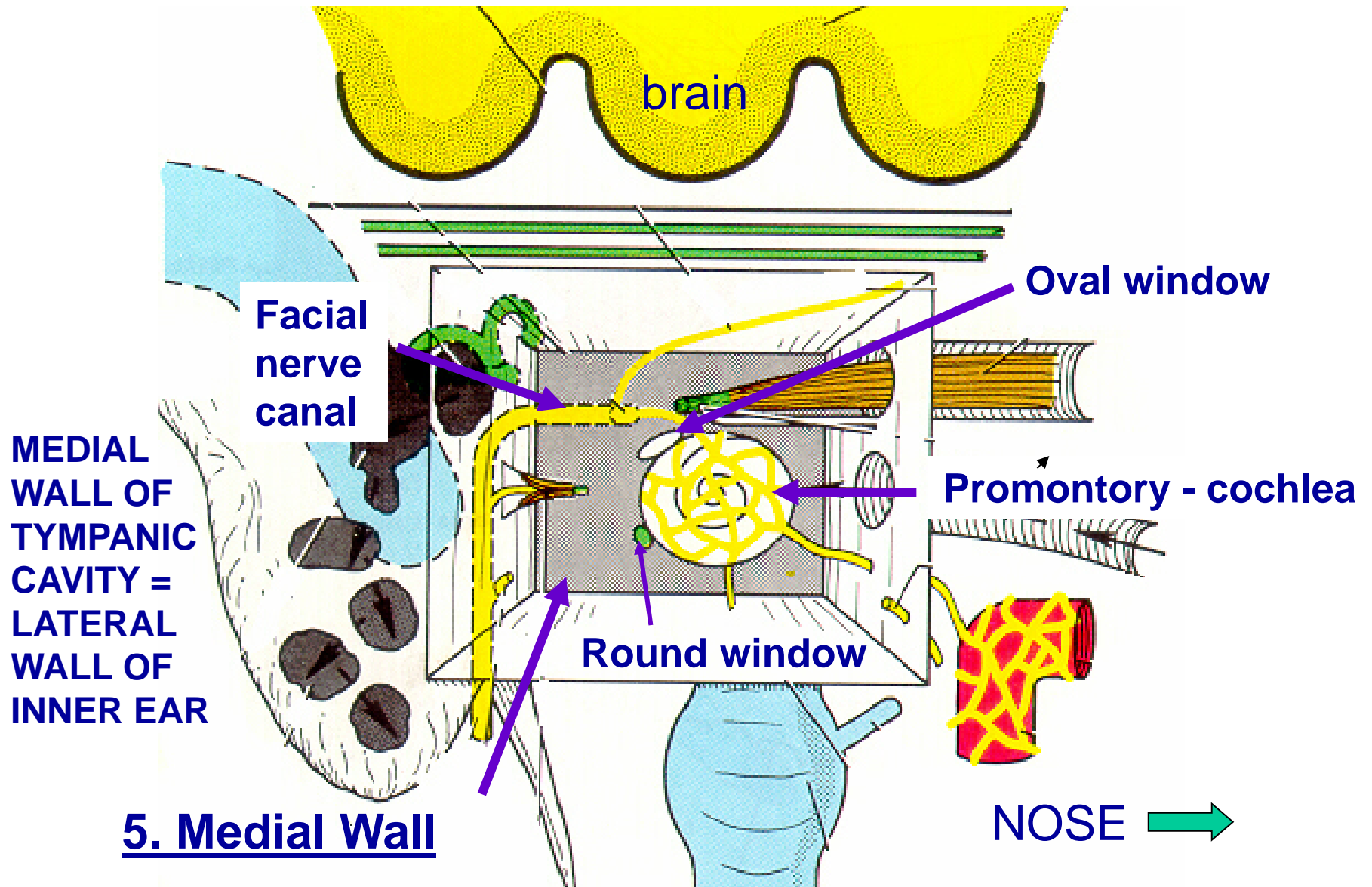
STYLOID  
PROCESS

# MIDDLE EAR: BOUNDARIES



**View of Medial Wall of Right Middle Ear with Tympanic membrane and Ossicles Removed (note: Promontory = bulge in wall from Cochlea)**

# MIDDLE EAR: BOUNDARIES

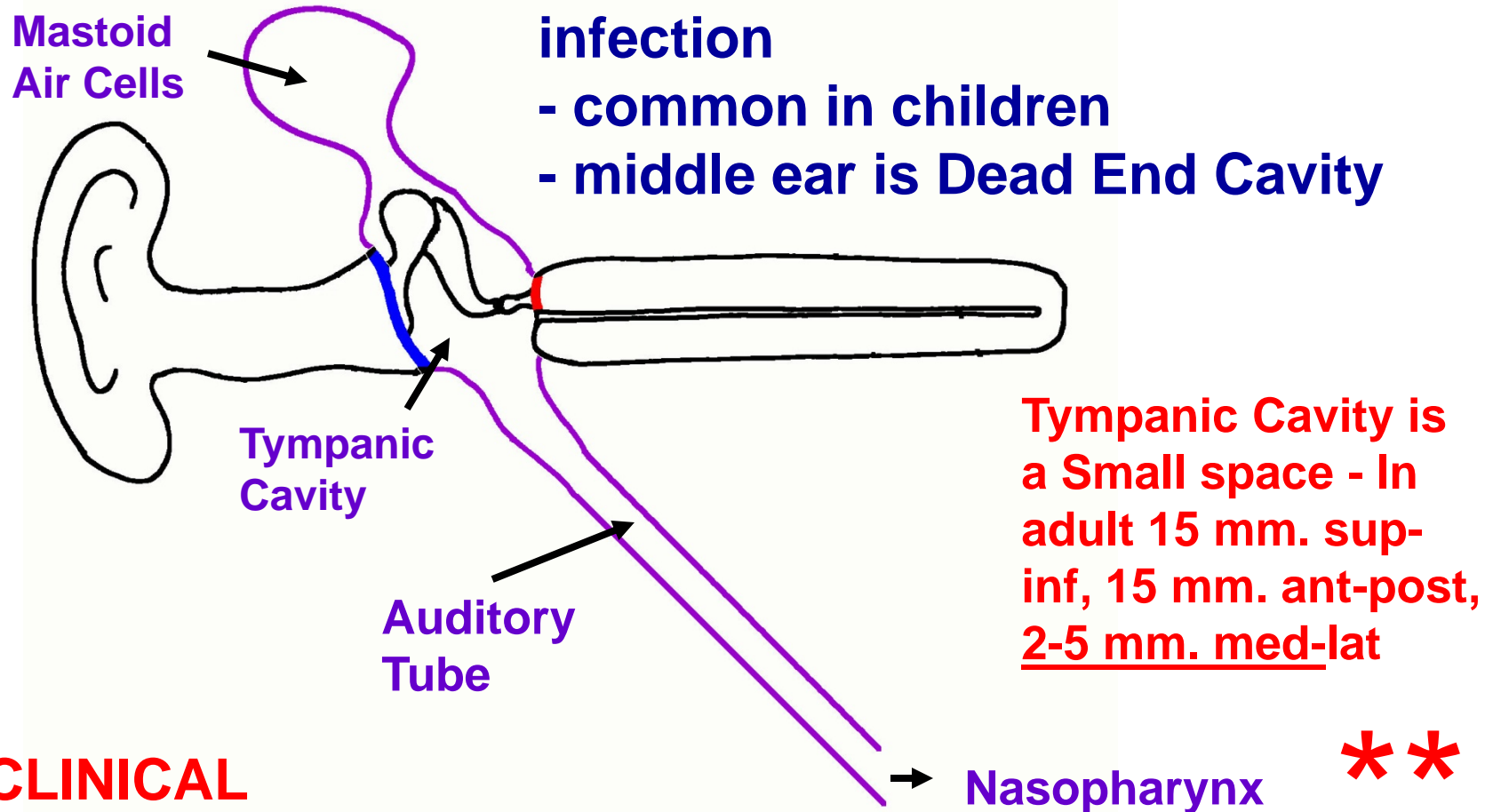


Oval window (fenestra vestibuli) = attach stapes; Round window (fenestra cochlea) other end of cochlea

# OTITIS MEDIA

## 1. Otitis Media – middle ear infection

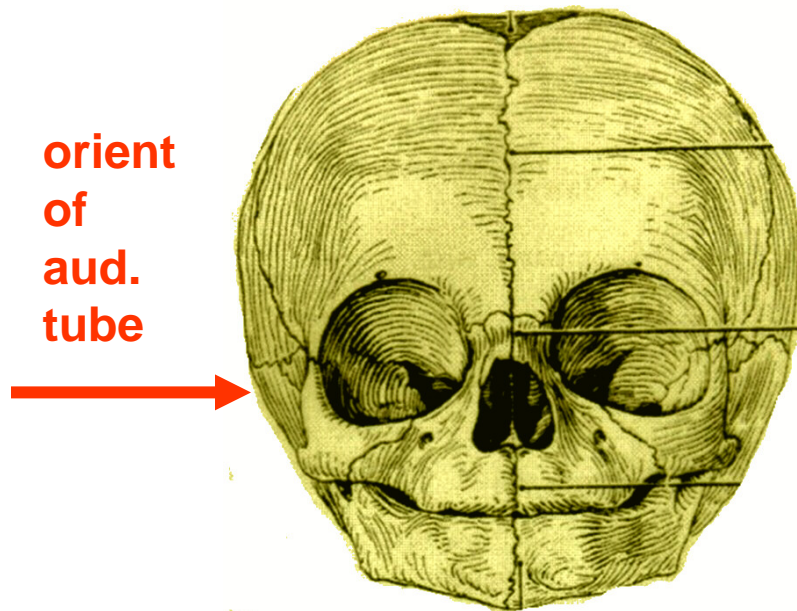
- common in children
- middle ear is Dead End Cavity



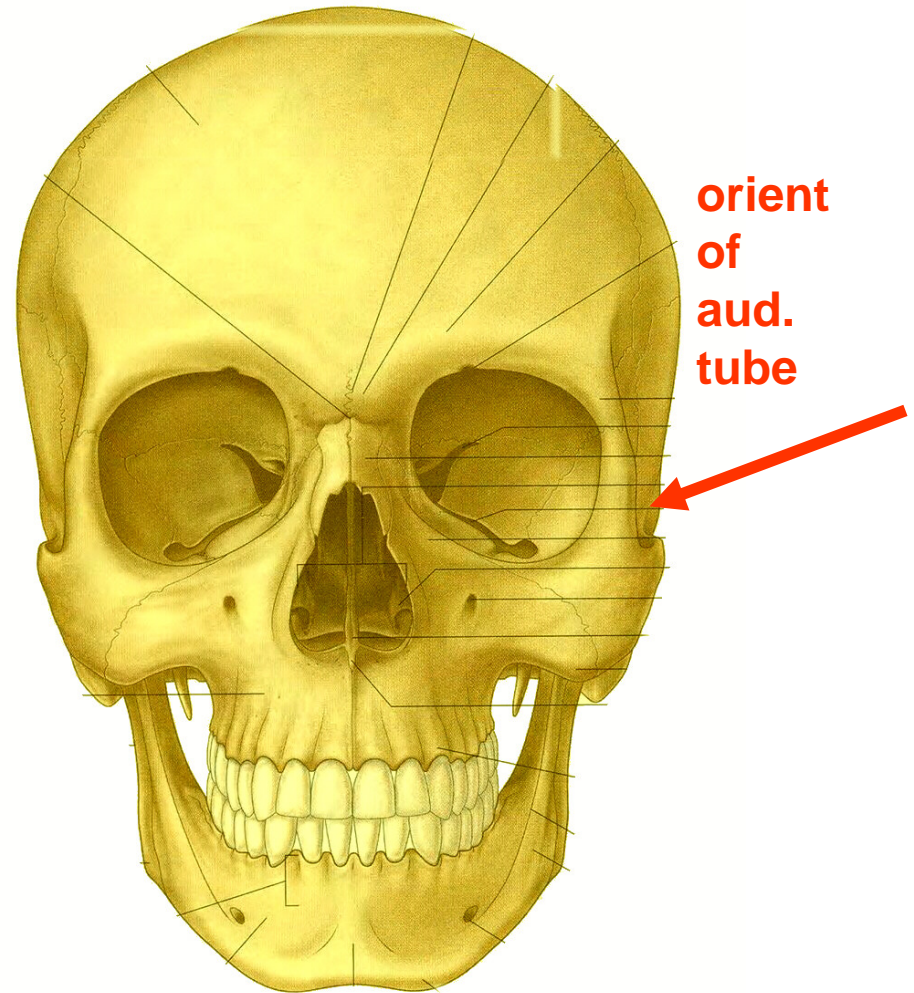
**Spread of infection from Respiratory System can damage Auditory Ossicles - Hearing Loss; Prolonged infection - Tegmen Tympani to Brain; treatment tympanostomy - tube through tympanic membrane**



# OCCURRENCE OF OTITIS MEDIA DECLINES WITH AGE OF CHILD



**ORIENTATION OF AUDITORY TUBE CHANGES FROM HORIZONTAL TO ANGLED WITH CRANIAL GROWTH (but contribution debated); diameter of lumen of auditory tube also increases**

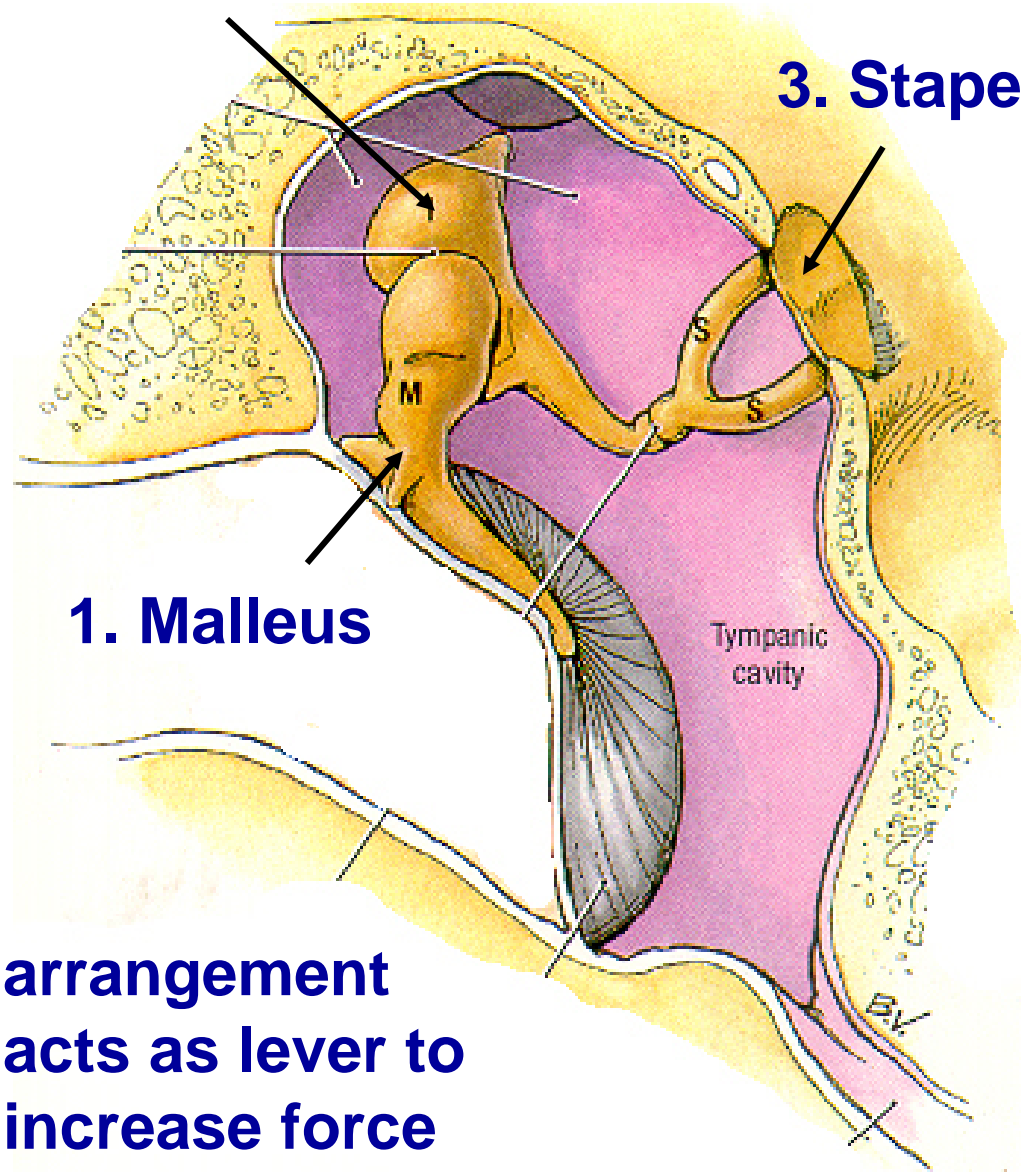


**Last peak incidence of Otitis media at about 5 years of age**

## B. AUDITORY OSSICLES

2. Incus

3. Stapes



1. Malleus

- link tympanic membrane to oval window and cochlea –

- anchored by ligaments

Malleus = hammer

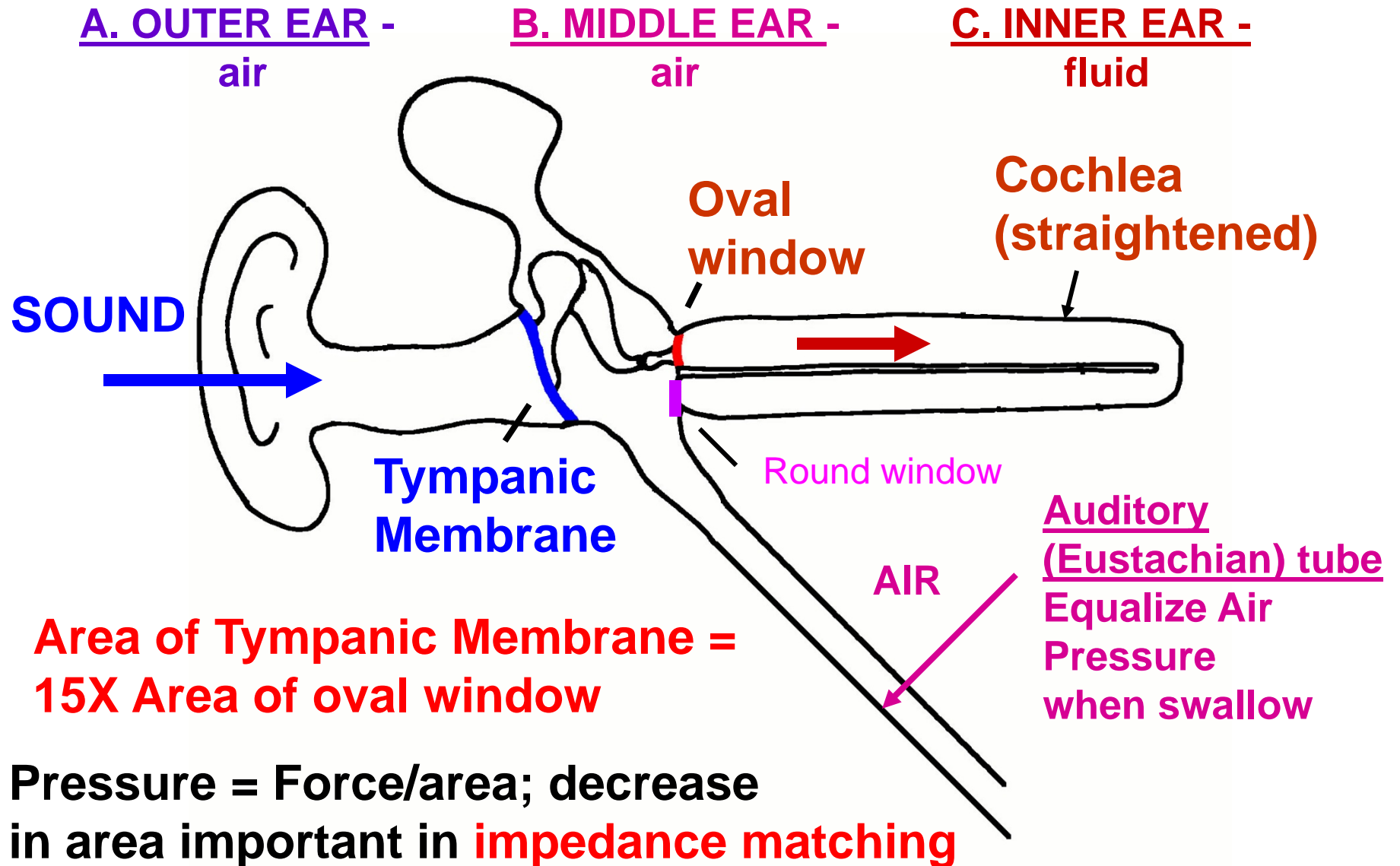
Incus = anvil

Stapes = stirrup

- Broad attachment of Malleus to tympanic membrane

arrangement acts as lever to increase force

# EAR: DIAGRAMMATICALLY - transmission of sound (Cochlea straightened)



# OTOSCOPE VIEW OF TYMPANIC MEMBRANE

**CHORDA  
TYMPANI**  
(branch  
of VII)

Pars  
flaccida

**MALLEUS –  
manubrium  
(handle)**

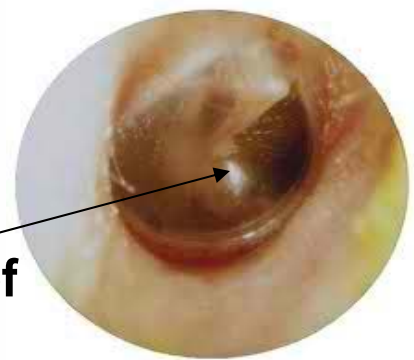
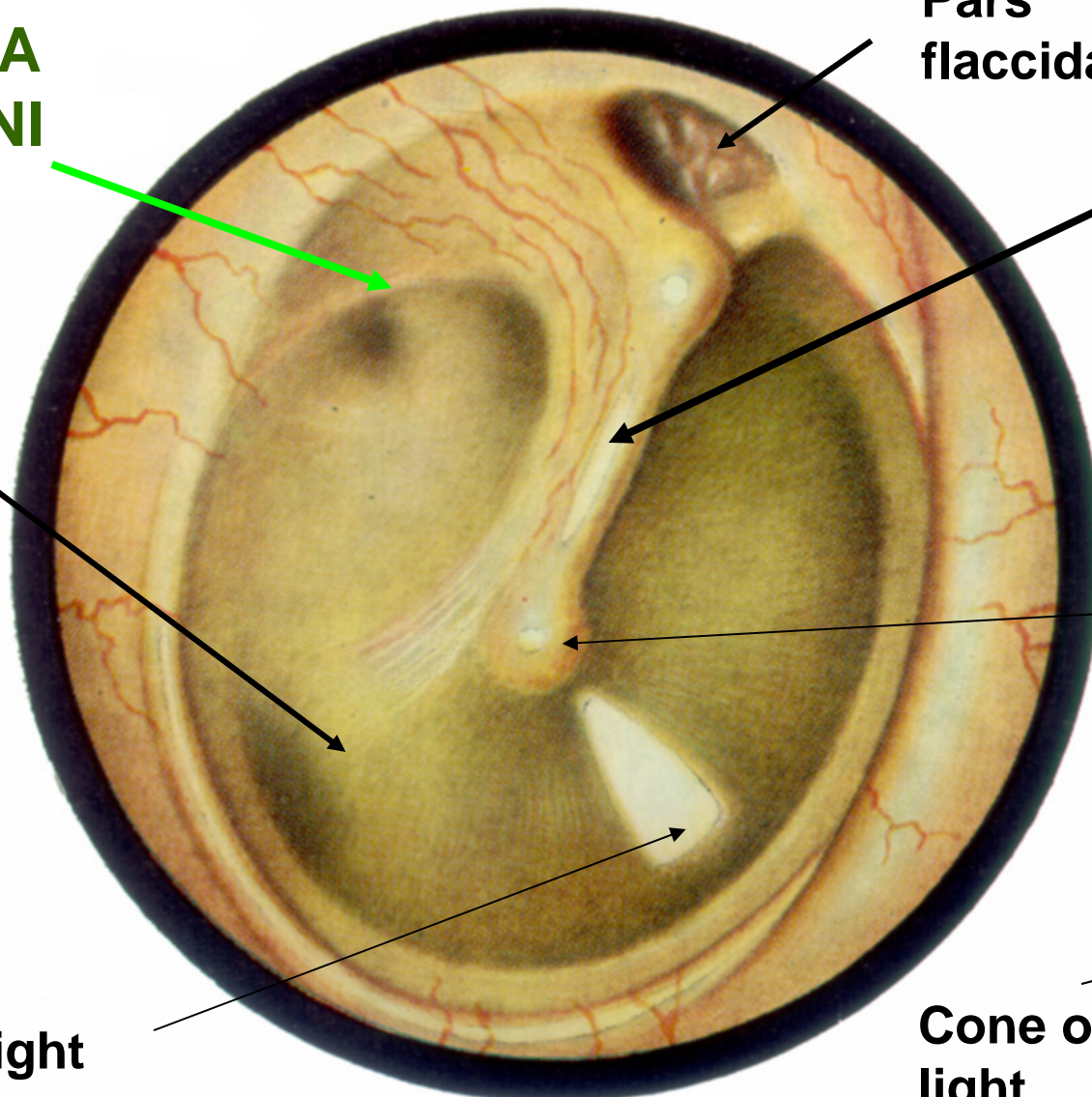
Pars  
tensa

Umbo  
(protuberance)

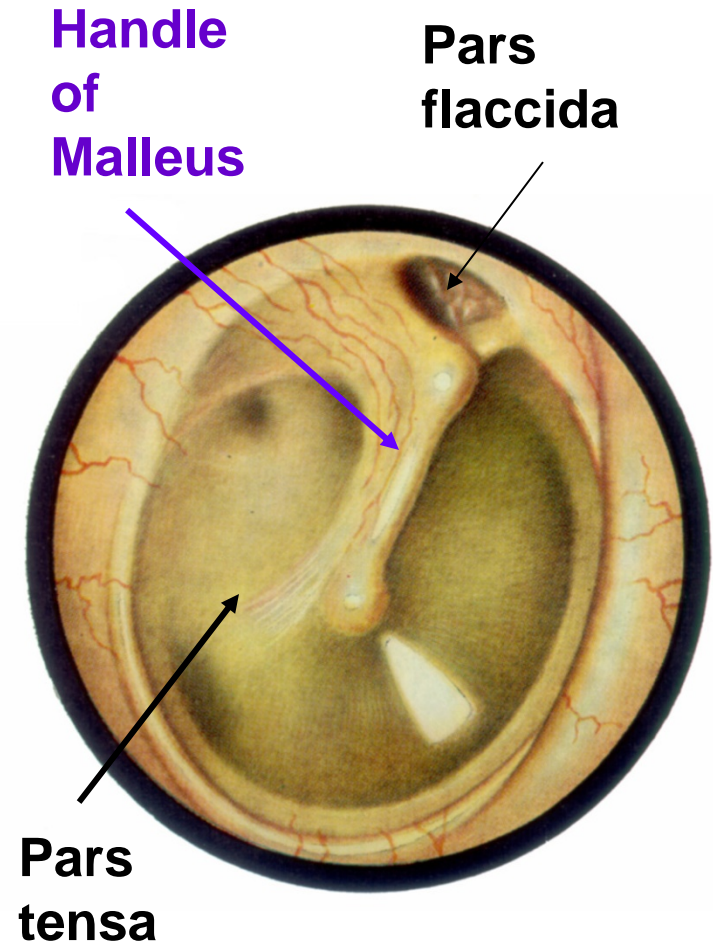
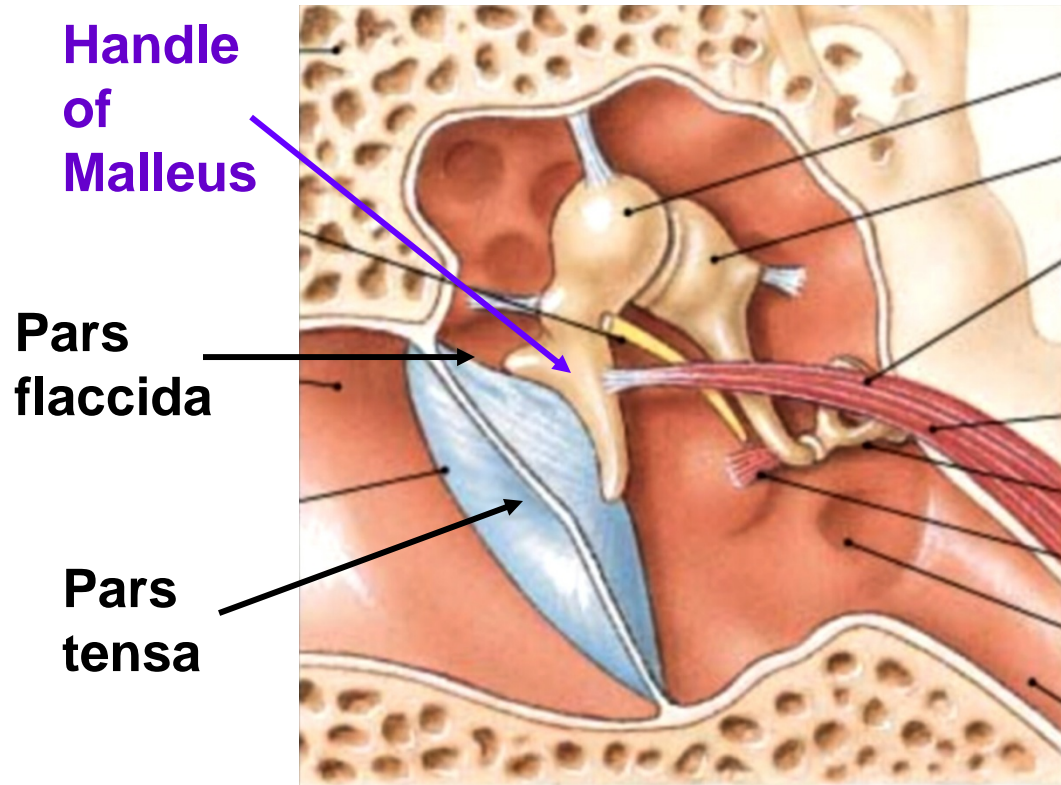
**RIGHT  
EAR**

Cone of light

Cone of  
light

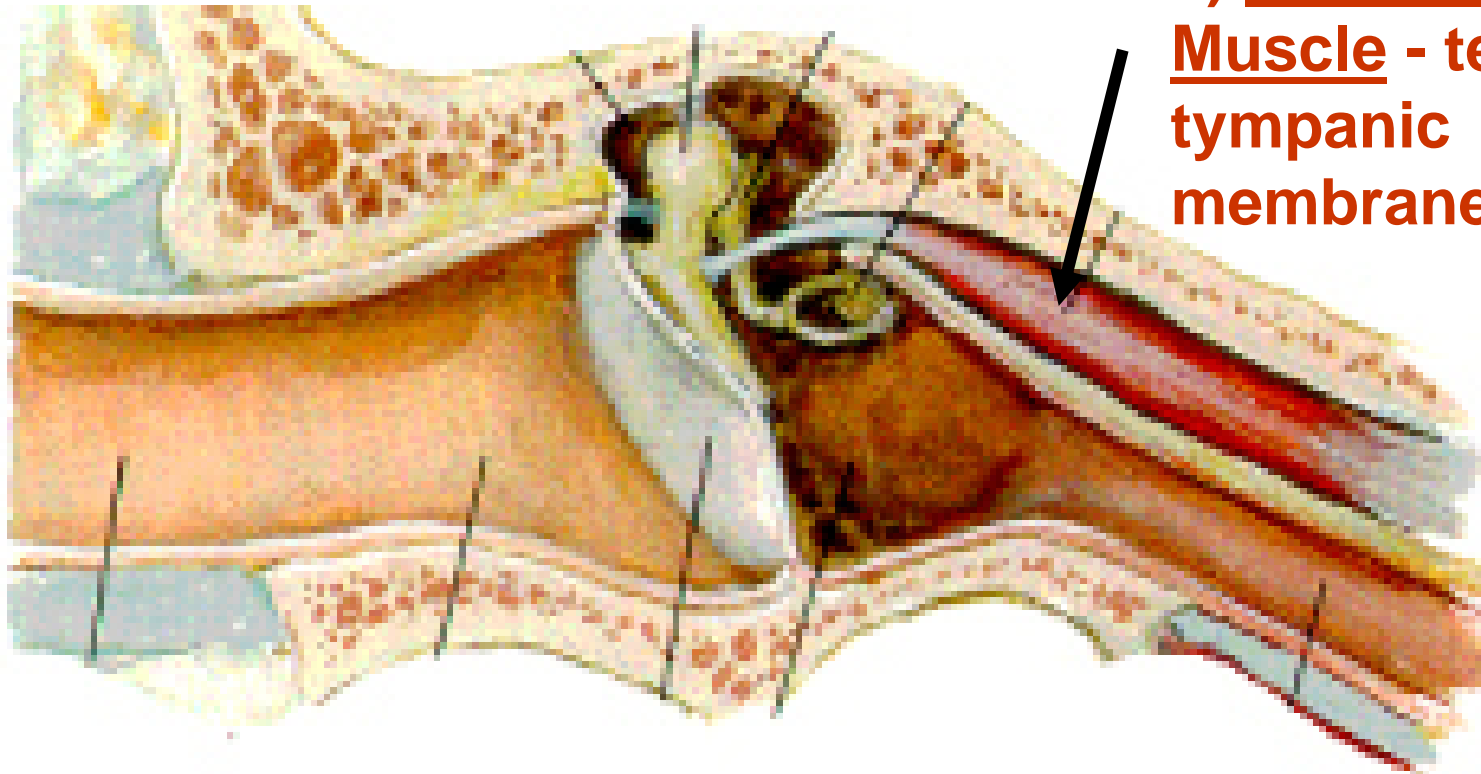


# OTOSCOPE VIEW OF TYMPANIC MEMBRANE



Handle malleus is attached to upper half of Tympanic membrane; malleus is supported by ligaments linking it to wall of Tympanic cavity; part of Tympanic membrane surrounding handle is tense (pars tensa); upper end is less tense (pars flaccida)

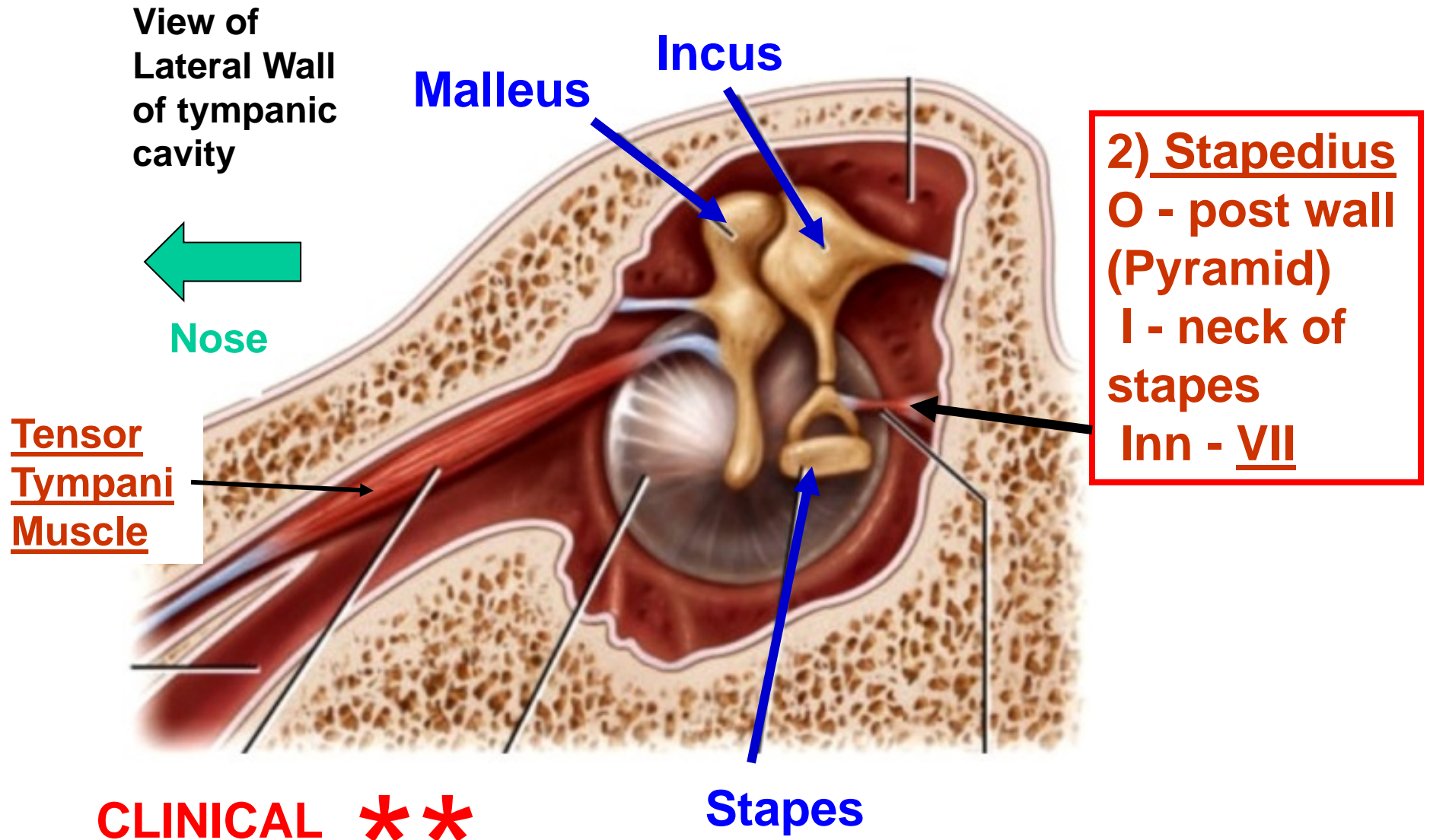
# MUSCLES OF MIDDLE EAR - dampen sound



1) Tensor Tympani Muscle - tenses tympanic membrane

O - canal in ant. wall  
I - handle of malleus  
Inn - V3

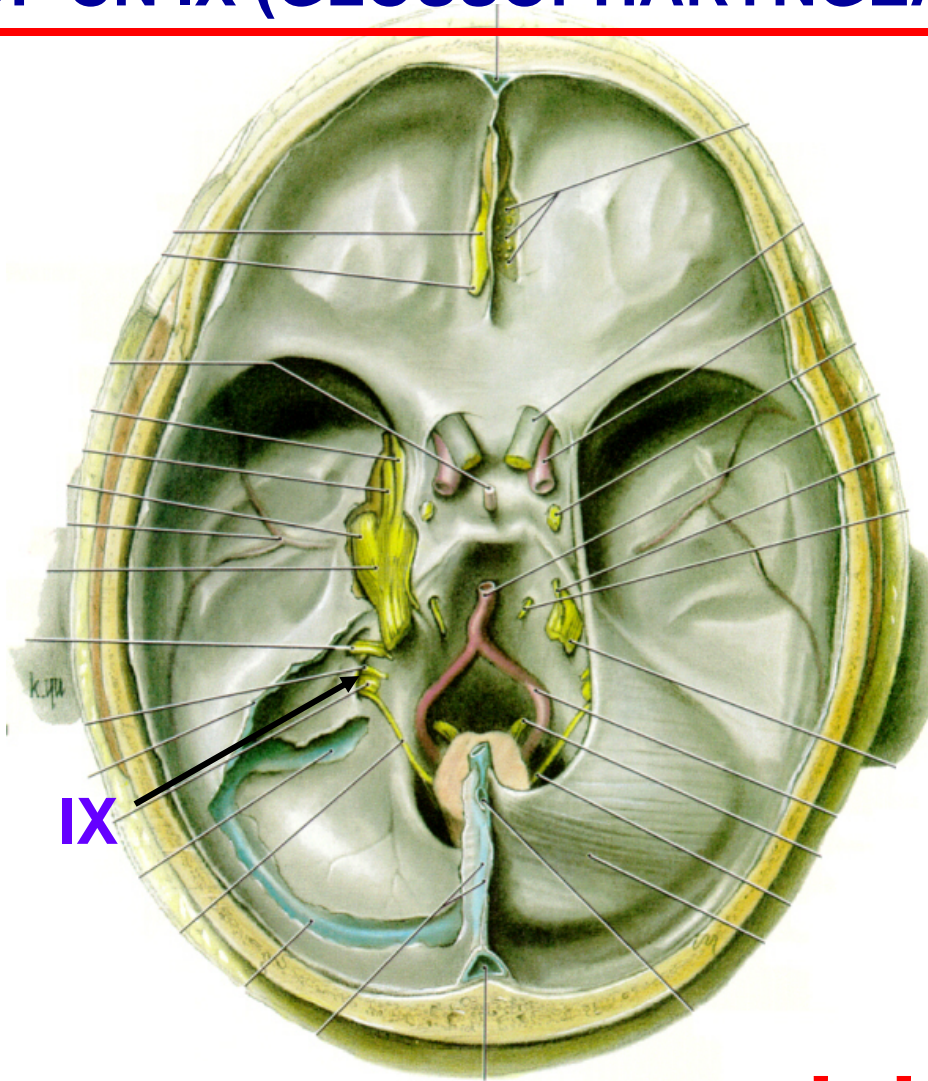
# C. MUSCLES OF MIDDLE EAR - dampen sound



**CLINICAL \* \***

**Damage to VII - Hyperacusia - sounds seem too loud**

**D. SENSORY INNERVATION - VISCERAL  
SENSORY (GVA) FROM TYMPANIC PLEXUS  
OF CN IX (GLOSSOPHARYNGEAL)**



leaves  
Posterior  
Cranial  
Fossa via  
Jugular  
Foramen

IX

**CLINICAL \*\*\***

- Innervation of middle ear is visceral sensory from CN IX (Glossopharyngeal)  
- Children with Middle Ear infections cannot localize pain - 'my head hurts'

\*\*\*

**BOARD QUESTION**



# IX - GLOSSOPHARYNGEAL

NOSE



Lesser  
Petrosal N.

exits via  
Jugular Foramen

Tympanic N.

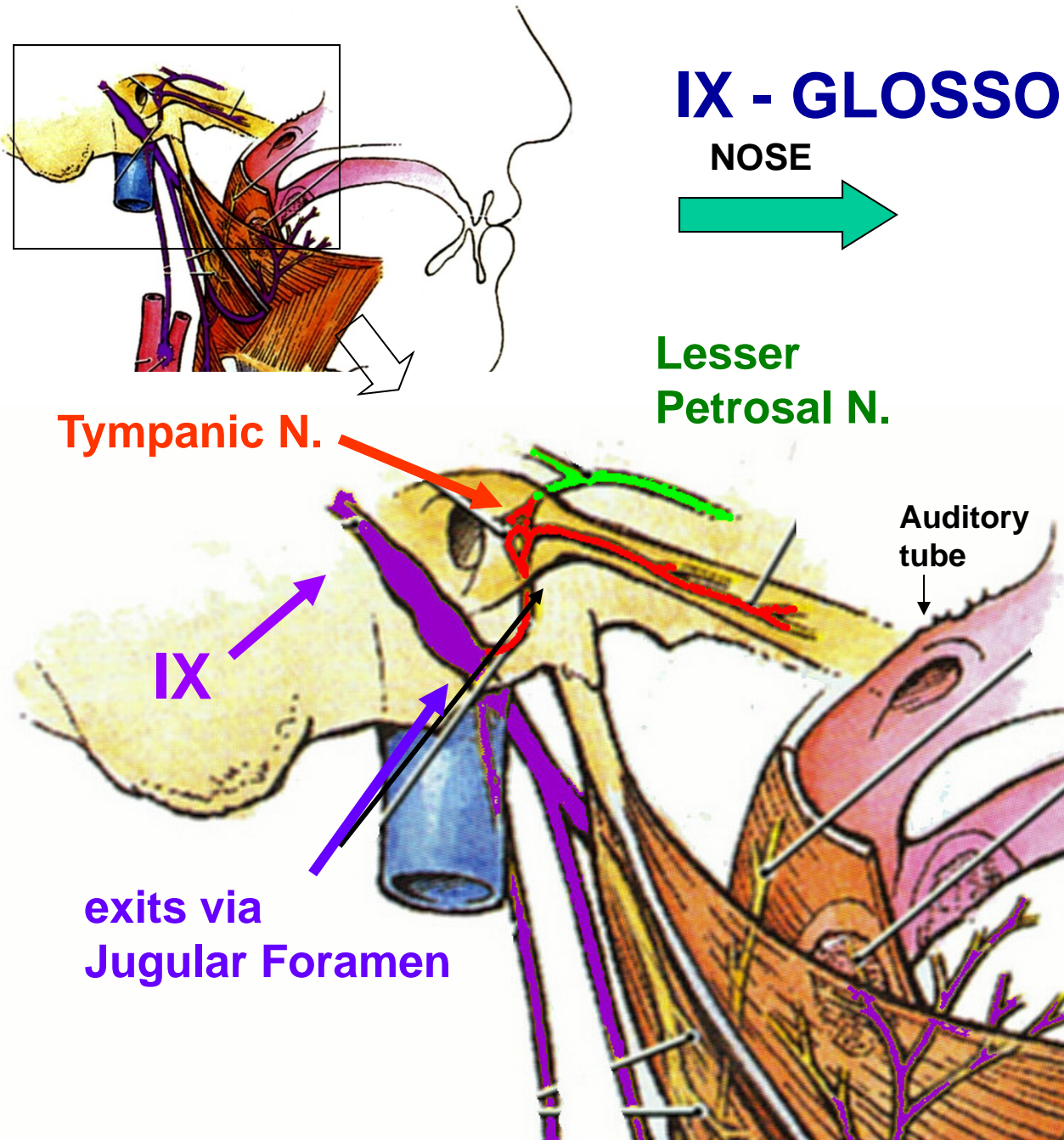
IX

exits via  
Jugular Foramen

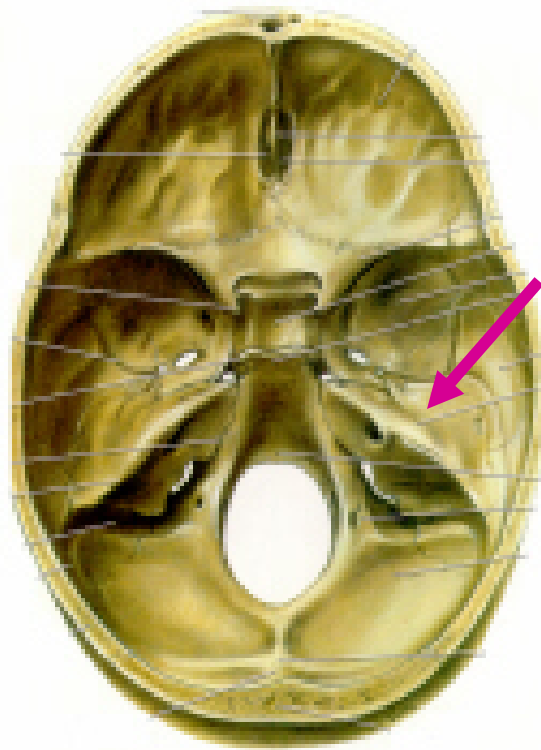
Auditory  
tube

**1. Tympanic Nerve**  
Forms tympanic  
plexus; **VISCERAL  
SENSORY** to  
middle ear  
Mastoid sinus  
auditory tube

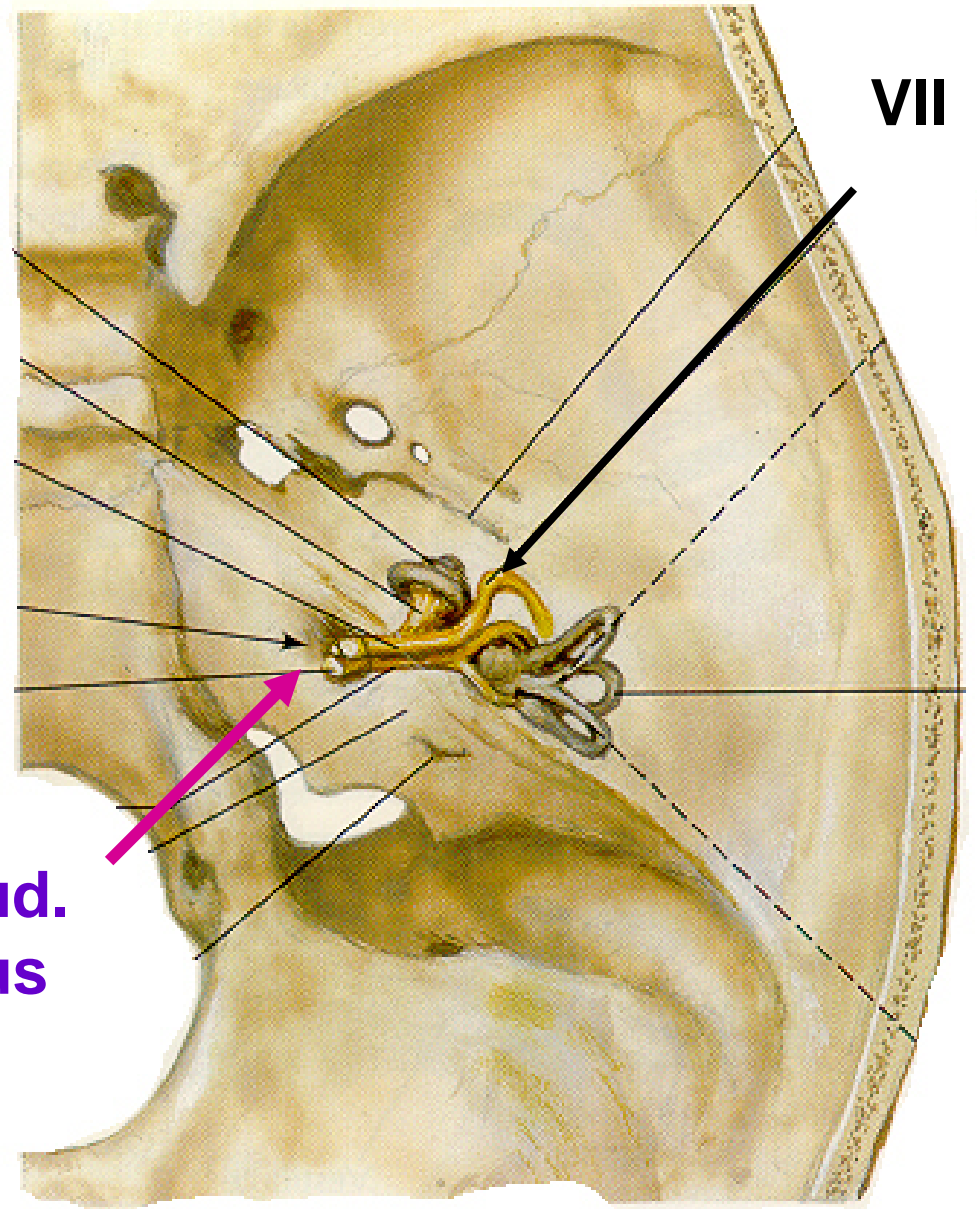
**2. Lesser Petrosal**  
**VISCERAL MOTOR**  
(parasymp)  
To Parotid Gland



## COURSE OF FACIAL NERVE (VII)



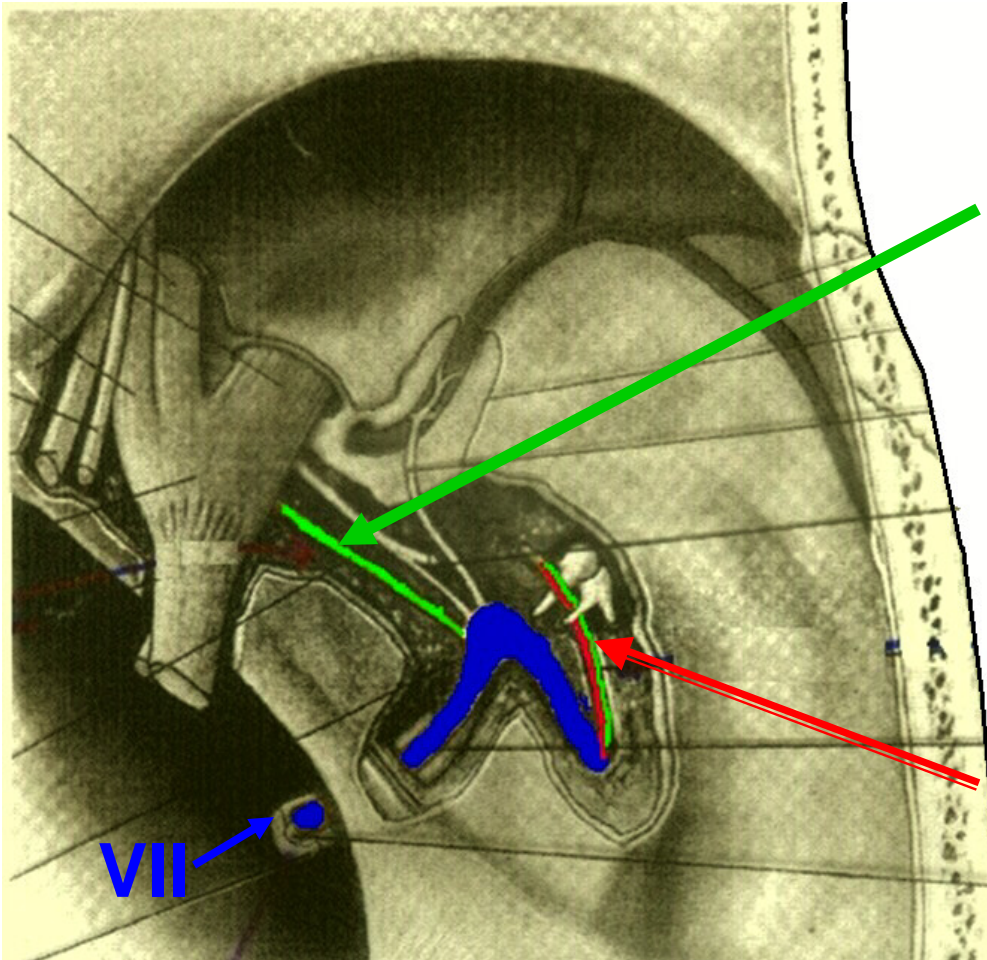
Petrous  
part of  
temporal  
bone



Int. aud.  
meatus

# VII - FACIAL

leaves Posterior Cranial fossa via Internal Auditory Meatus - enters facial canal

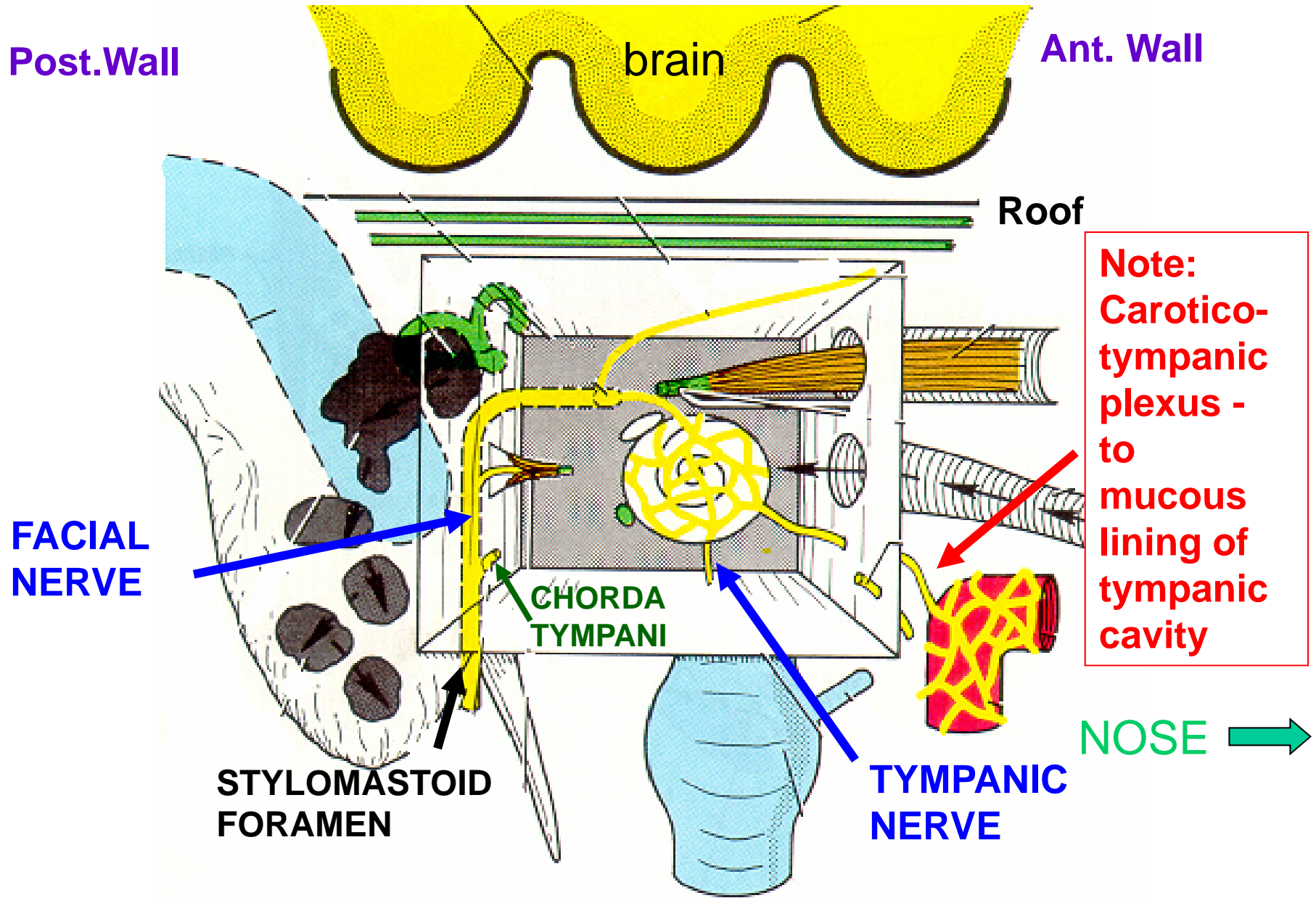


1. Greater Petrosal N.  
**VISCERAL MOTOR**  
Parasympathetics to  
Lacrimal gland, mucous  
glands of nose and palate,  
[Visceral sensory to  
Nasopharynx]

2. Stapedial N. -  
Branchiomotor to  
Stapedius

3. Chorda Tympani - has  
A) Taste to ant 2/3 tongue  
B) Parasympathetics to  
Submandibular, Sublingual  
salivary glands

# LOCATION OF NERVES IN MIDDLE EAR

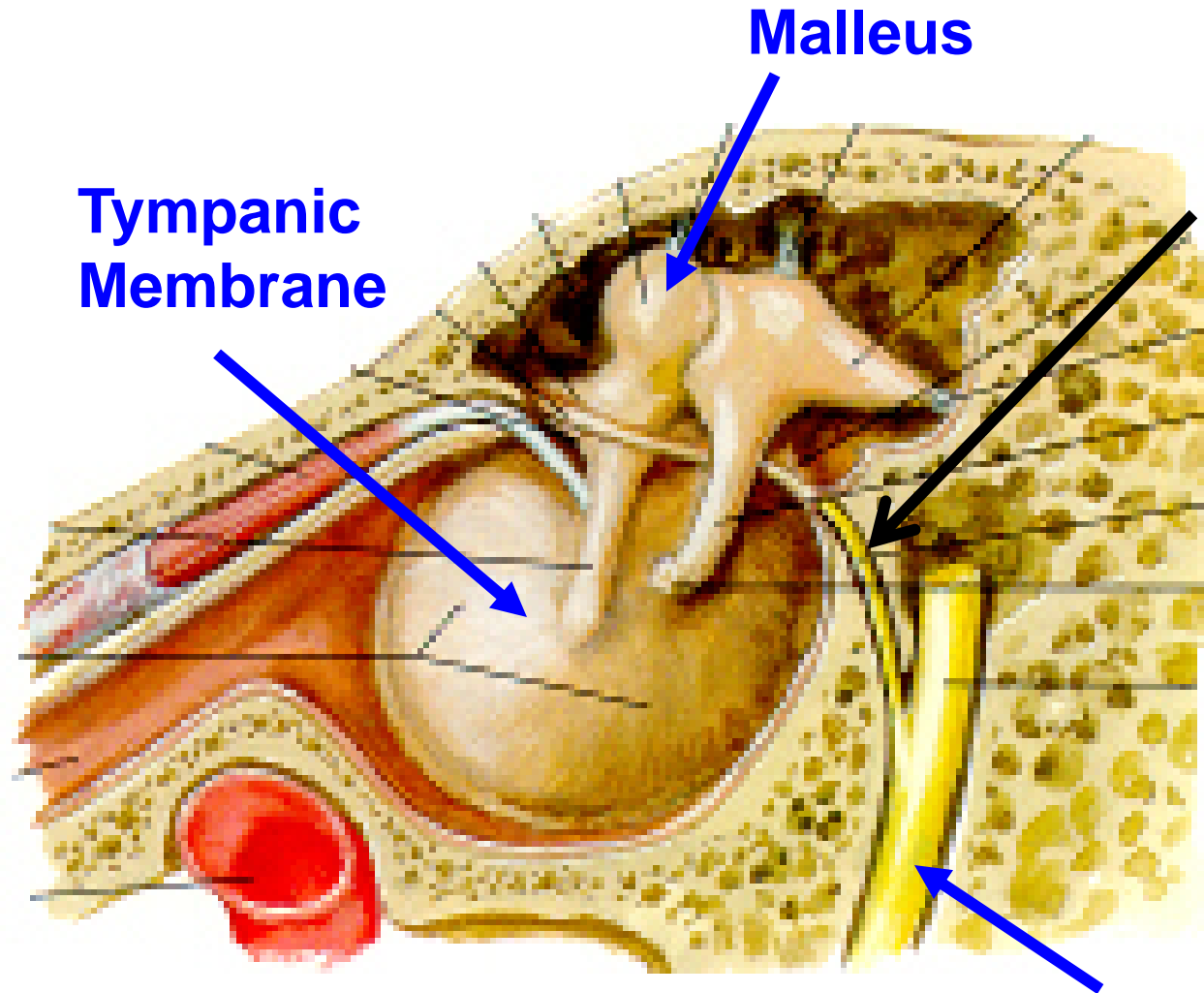


Looking at Medial Wall of Right Middle Ear with Ossicles Removed

# CHORDA TYMPANI

## CLINICAL

**Taste** to ant. 2/3 of tongue  
**Parasympathetic** to Submandibular, Sublingual Salivary glands



Tympanic Membrane

Malleus

FACIAL NERVE

- Chorda Tympani has no function in middle ear
- Crosses through tympanic cavity
- Over handle of malleus

# OTOSCOPE VIEW OF TYMPANIC MEMBRANE

Pars  
flaccida

**CHORDA  
TYMPANI:  
TASTE,  
VISCERAL  
MOTOR  
(parasymp)**

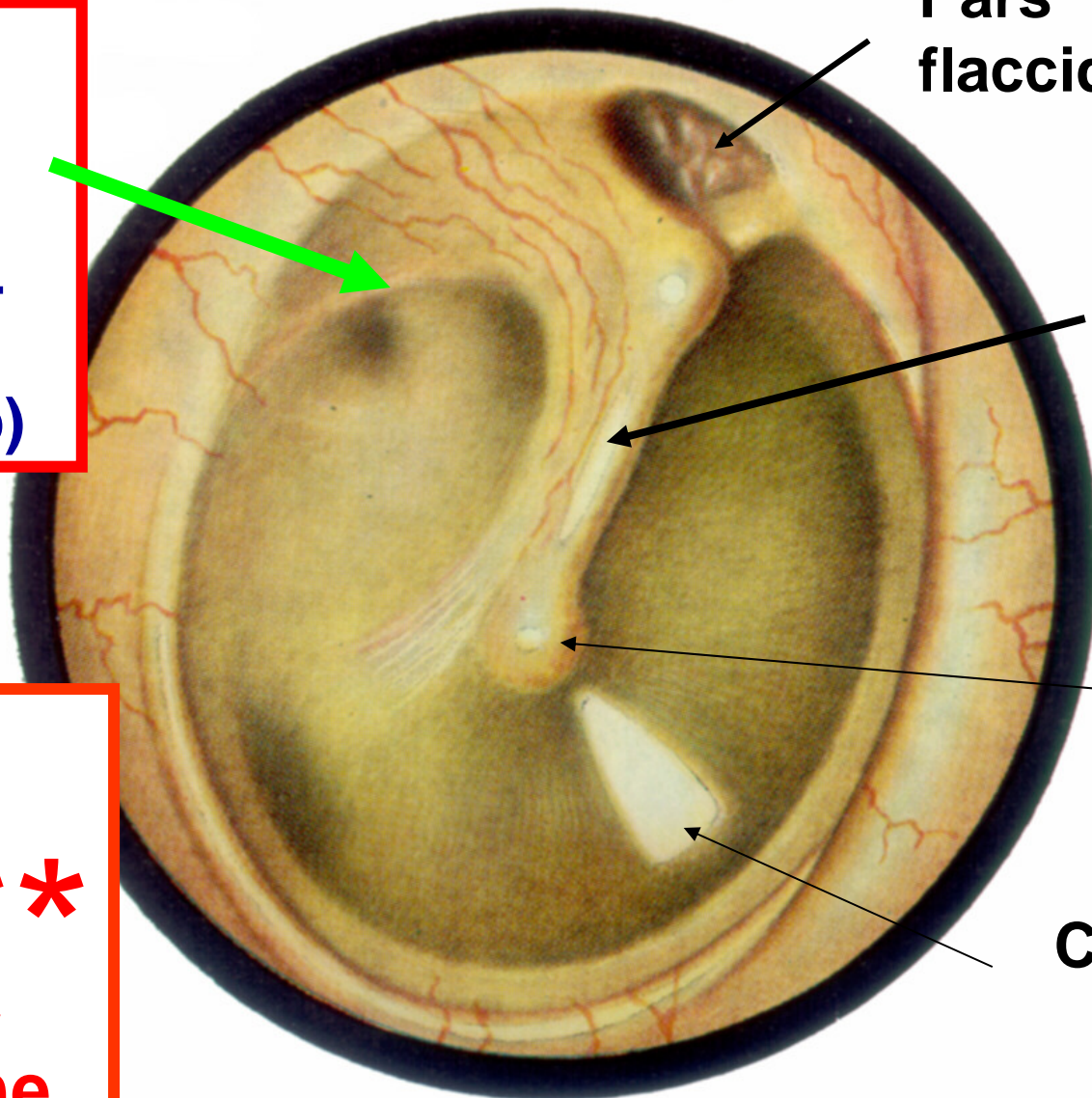
**MALLEUS –  
manubrium  
(handle)**

**CLINICAL\***

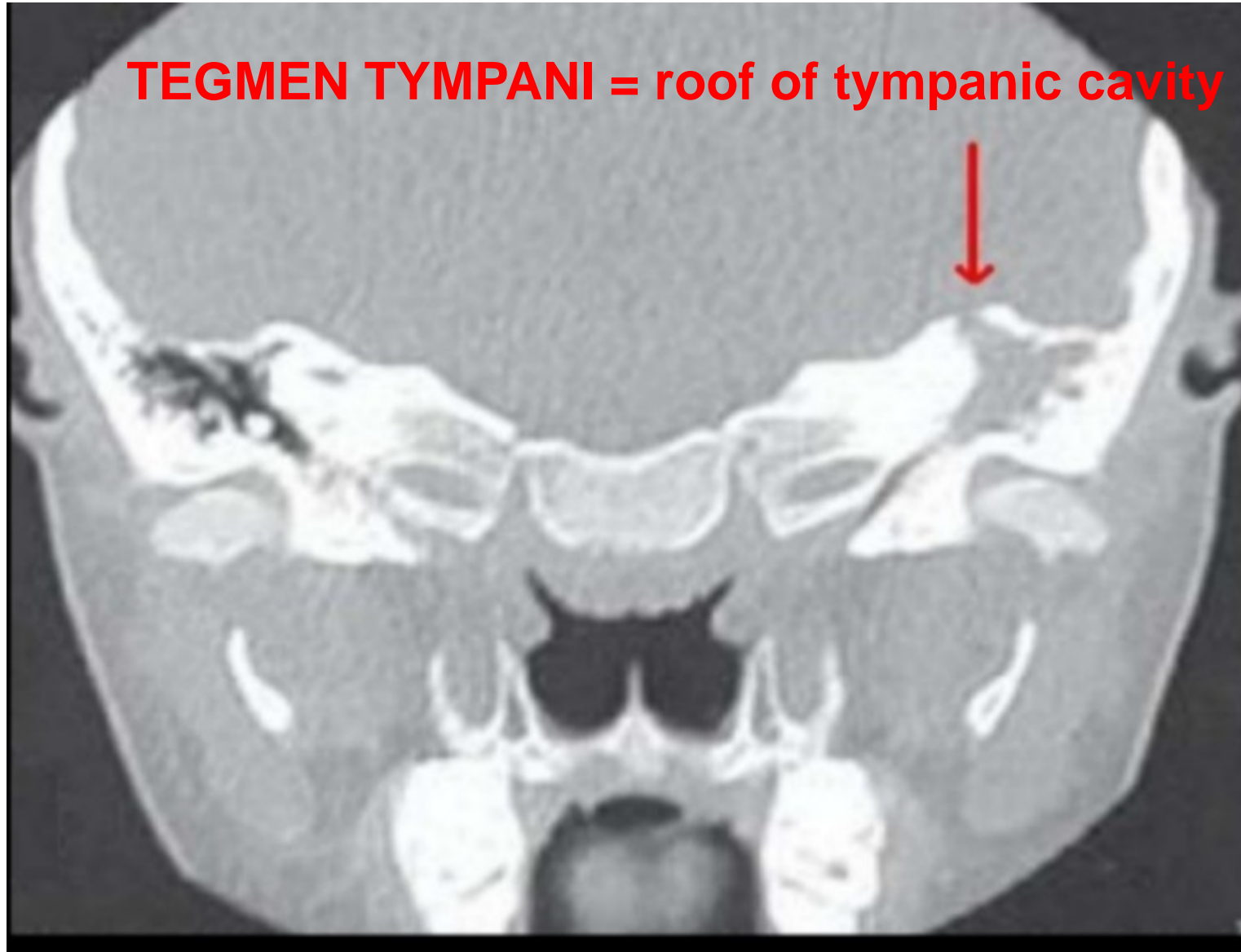
**Lose  
taste if  
pierce \*\*  
tympanic  
membrane**

**Umbo**

**Cone of light**



## EROSION OF TEGMEN TYMPANI IN OTITIS MEDIA



tegman L. = covering